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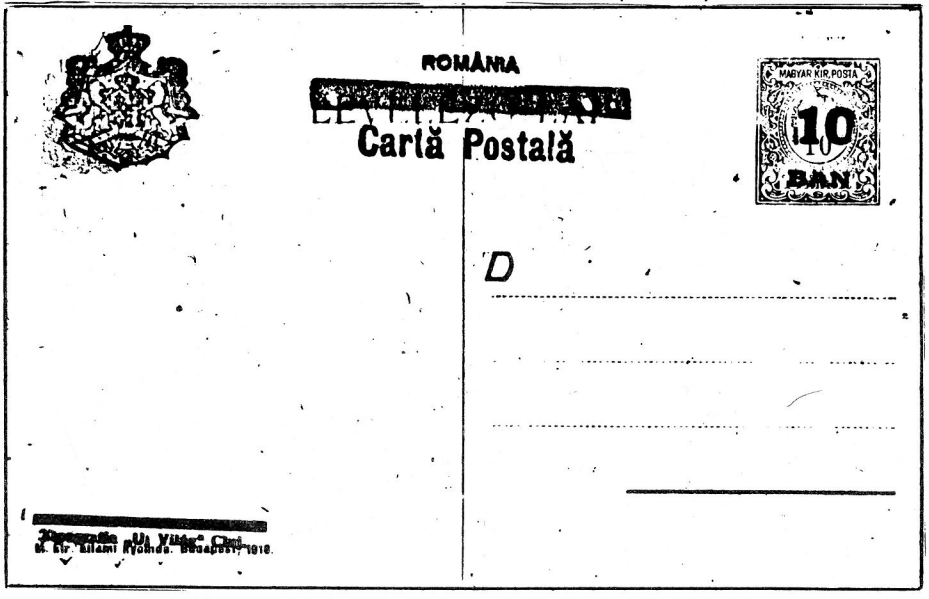
UNRECORDED POSTAL STATIONERY ERROR

Laszlo Eros, Str. Horia No. 19,
3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

At the end of World War I, Hungarian postal cards still present in the post offices of Croatia, Slovakia, Banat and Transylvania, after their unification with Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Romania, were overprinted by the new administrations. Large quantities of such material found in Timisoara and Cluj were overprinted with a new Romanian text and denomination and were used throughout the country as Romanian postal stationery until March 15, 1920.

In Cluj, the overprint was applied in 1919 at the "Uj Vilag" (New World) print shop on ordinary Hungarian 10 filler postal cards (Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 #CPM.1), Hungarian military postal cards without denomination (CMPR #CPM.3) as well as on Hungarian 20 filler letter-cards (CMPR #CPM.4). On the letter-cards, the new denomination was 15 bani while on the ordinary and the military cards it was 10 bani. In all of these instances, the overprint is in black. On CPM.1 (rose on cream cardboard), the overprint consists of the following: a Romanian coat-of-arms is applied over the Hungarian one and a thick horizontal bar is over the Hungarian words "LEVELEZO LAP" (Postal Card); above it is "ROMANIA" and below it "Carta Postala" (Post Card); "10 BANI" appears in two lines over the Hungarian imprinted stamp; a capital "D" is the abbreviation for "Domnului" or Doamnei" (Mr. or Mrs.); a bar on the lower left corner covers the Hungarian text: "M.(agyar) kir.(alji) allami nyomda. Budapest 1918" (Royal Hungarian state printing plant. Budapest 1918); and below it is found "Tipografia 'Uj Vilag' Cluj" ('Uj Vilag' printing plant Cluj). The position of the overprints varies due to imperfect technology and to haste; often the Hungarian text is clearly visible because of shifted overprinted bars.

A small quantity of the CPM.1 postal cards show a missing letter "I" in "BANI" and the right side of the numeral "0" in "10" is thin, probably due to worn-out and defective printing cliche. Although in a stock of 100 such postal cards acquired a long time ago, I found 50 cards presenting this error, it is still a scarce item.



FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Mircea Telegut,
Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13,
1900 Timisoara, Romania

The great depression of the 1930s was felt through the world. Its creation of large numbers of out of work persons is also reflected in philately. France had several issues with surtaxes for assistance to "Unemployed Intellectuals", such as Yvert #307 & 308 of 1935; #330-333 of 1936 and #343-344 of 1937.

While the Romanian post office did not issue such semi-postal stamps, the mayoralty of the city of Timisoara did issue a tax stamp (vignette) to be applied on administrative and financial documents, registration forms, etc. Its only denomination, 1 leu, is violet (various shades to dark violet), perforated 11½, and measures 20 x 26 mm. The center depicts the coat-of-arms of Timisoara while its text reads: "MUNICIPIUL TIMISOARA, 1 LEU PENTRU SOMERI" (Timisoara municipality, 1 leu for the unemployed).

The fund collected by selling these "tax stamps for the unemployed" was spent mostly in Timisoara, the largest city in the country, where most industry and hence the out of work employees were concentrated, and was primarily spent to run soup kitchens.

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Romania's English Railway Post

By Dr. Emanoil Munteanu, Str. Cristian, Vila No. 9, 2400 Sibiu, Romania

Postal services were established by two private English companies to provide or supplement other means of communication in parts of the Ottoman Empire now Romanian territory.

These were the railway post of Danube-Black Sea Railway Co. (D.B.S.R.) between Kustendje (Constanta) and Czernawoda (Cernavoda) and the sea mail service of T. B. Morton & Co. with headquarters in Constantinople and facilities in Sulina, Braila and Constanta.

This study is concerned with the D.B.S.R. service. The Constanta-Cernavoda Railway was built by the T. Trevor Barklay & John Stainforth Co. to shorten travel time between the Black Sea port of Constanta and the interior of what is now Romania by way of the Danube River port of Cernavoda. It served the English Kustendje Harbour Co. which was responsible for commercial port operations — receipt, handling and transport of goods and issuance of the required documents such as bills of lading, customs forms, letters of conveyance, etc.

In 1860, when the railway began operating, the D.B.S.R. and the Kustendje Harbour Co. opened a postal service for conveyance of mail between Constanta and Cernavoda. Until 1865 postage was paid in cash and a "20" marking (20 paras) or a manuscript note recorded the payment (Figure 1). A "15" was used for letters originating in Medjidie and going either way (Figure 2).

Figure 1

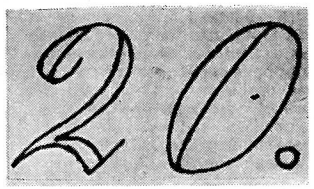

Figure 2

In the 1865 the D.B.S.R. issued a 20-paras adhesive stamp, a uniform fee for any distance along the Constanza-Cernavoda line. For mail addressed beyond either terminal point, additional postage had to be paid to cover charges for the remainder of the distance. Covers are known which also bear an Austrian Levant (Soldi) stamp, used by the Austrian consular post offices in Constantinople or Cernavoda or the Lloyd Agency office in Constanta (Figure 3).

The 20-paras D.B.S.R. stamp is printed in black on bluish green paper. Perforation varies from 8½ to 9½. According to the 1959 Romanian Catalogue of F. Konrad and M. Herscovici the perforation was made in a way that completely separated the stamps, so no pairs or blocks are known. The stamp, 18.5 mm wide and 22.25 mm high, pictures the old port of Constanta with hills in the background, (among them Avretuk-Tepe, known to shipping), a boat and a train. Above the hills is a Turkish crescent, a symbolic half moon with rays and a five-pointed star. The double frame line encloses the inscription "DBSR/LOCAL POST/ KUSTENDJE & CZERNAWODA /20 PARAS." In each of the four corners "2" is shown in the Arabic numeral form used by the Turks (Figure 4).

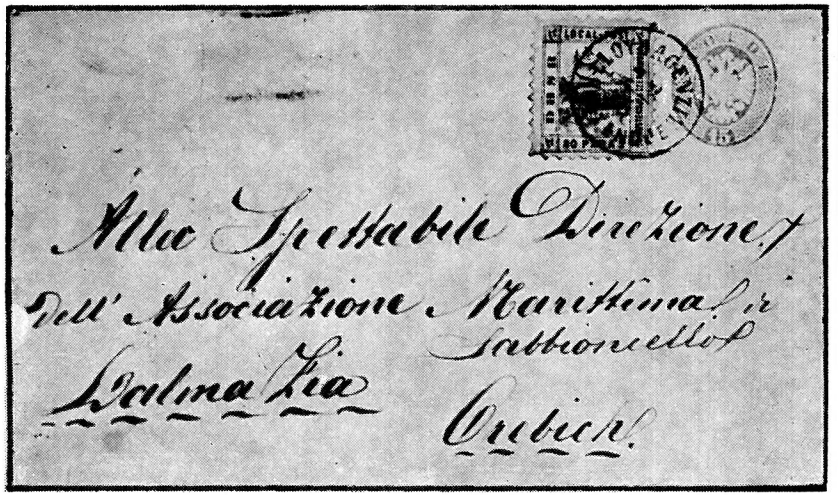

Figure 3

Figure 4

The adhesive stamp was printed by Jakob Boschan & Co., using of die prepared by M. Kaiser Co., both of Vienna. Between 1865 and 1869 a total of 5,000 stamps were printed in sheets of 100. The *Priced Catalogue of Local Postage Stamps* by E. F. Hurt and L. N. & M. Williams states: "A proof is known in black on card, and in black on yellow gummed paper showing impressions of the early state."

Several reprints are known. These were printed by Kaiser at the request of stamp dealers from the worn original die on paper of varying thickness up to cardboard and in nine different colors — black, silver, bronze, yellow, green, blue, rose, etc. The reprints are fairly scarce. There are also forgeries, which vary in size from the originals.

Several different types of cancellations are known.

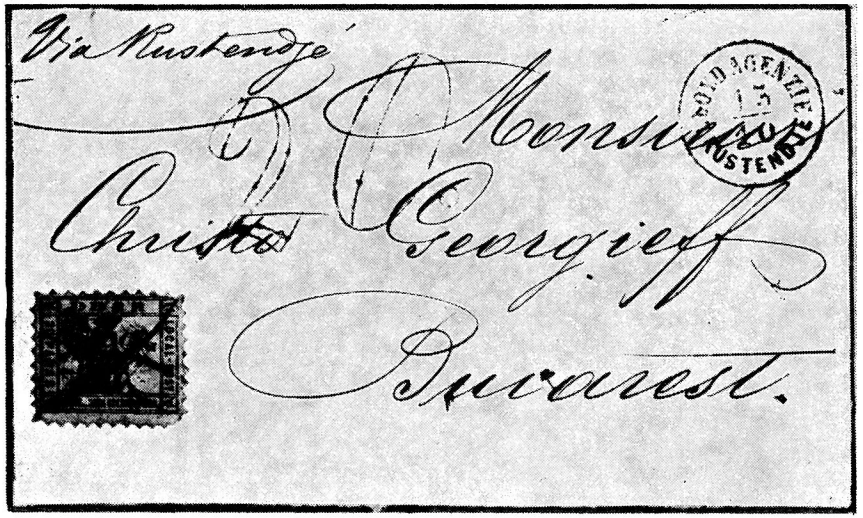

Figure 5

For letters to and from points along the D.B.S.B. the stamp was pen-canceled. The manuscript marking rarely ties the stamp to the cover, making expertizing difficult (Figure 5).

With an unframed, undated "MEDJIDIE" marking provided by the D.B.S.R. (Figure 6).

With the Austrian consular post office markings "KUSTENDJE," a 25 mm diameter single circle with a three-line date, the year being denoted by its last two numerals (Figure 7) and "CZERNAWODA," 23.5 mm in diameter single circle with a two line date (Figure 8).

With the Austrian Lloyd marking, a 23.5 mm single circle containing "LLOYD AGENZIE KUSTENDJE," day and month (Figures 3 and 5).

The D.B.S.R. stamp remained in use until 1871, according to published records. As it was little used, valid only for a small area and for

Figure 6

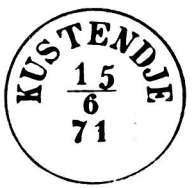

Figure 7

Figure 8

only a short time, it remained unknown for a long time. Few have survived and even fewer have been recorded.

The D.B.S.R. also seems to have had an agency in Giurgevo (Giurgiu). A letter heading (Figure 9) and a seal (Figure 10) dated 1861 have been found on a letter from Giurgiu to Vienna.

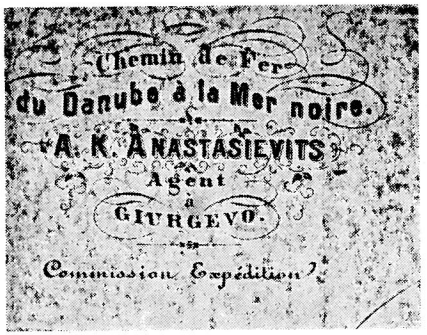

Figure 9

Figure 10

This study is based on material in the collection of L. Dengel of Sibiu, Romania. The article was procured for the *S.P.A. Journal* by George Pataki, editor of *Romanian Philatelic Studies*.

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† PROF. DR. ENG. ILIE C. DEMETRESCU

On July 25, 1981, Ilie C. Demetrescu, reknown Romanian researcher passed away in Bucharest. Born in 1898, Ilie C. Demetrescu studied engineering in Romania and received his doctoral degree in Munich, Germany.

Ilie C. Demetrescu was active in philately for over 60 years. He published many articles, lectured and shared his vast knowledge and the results of his studies with his fellow philatelists.
He specialized in Romanian essays and proofs and, in 1958, he received the Grand Prix of the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Bucharest. For his outstanding activity, Ilie C. Demetrescu was named Honorary Member of the Philatelists' Association of Romania.

Romanian 'Asistenta Sociala' Charity and Postal Tax Due Stamps

By George Pataki

Some philatelists sometimes find it hard to understand the legal requirements and social customs of other countries. One such instance is the use of the semipostal stamps (listed separately by Scott with B numbers), where the user of postal service, franking his mail with such stamps, actually is overpaying for the required service, voluntarily or involuntarily, sometimes by a significant amount. Another, but related field, is the usage of postal tax stamps. These are issued for various purposes such as relief, charity, culture, aviation, etc. Use of some of these has been voluntary, while others were required to be affixed, at some time, on correspondence and/or various fiscal and administrative documents. Scott lists some of these stamps, while others are not mentioned at all.

The first Romanian charity stamps were isued in 1913 (see "Assistance Stamps," Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3/1980) and were voluntarily used. In 1915 their use became mandatory. In 1921 it was decided to transform the relief surtax collected through stamps (which had had some justification during and right after the war) into a new "social assistance" tax. Through the sale of these stamps, it was intended to obtain funds for support of various private organizations engaged in social welfare work.

Out of the numerous Romanian charity sets, we present here the "ASISTENTA SOCIALA" (social assistance) stamps (Scott lists only the lower values, RA13-15; Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue AS. 1-7) which were introduced in 1921 (the last printing was done in 1928) and used until Dec. 31, 1929.

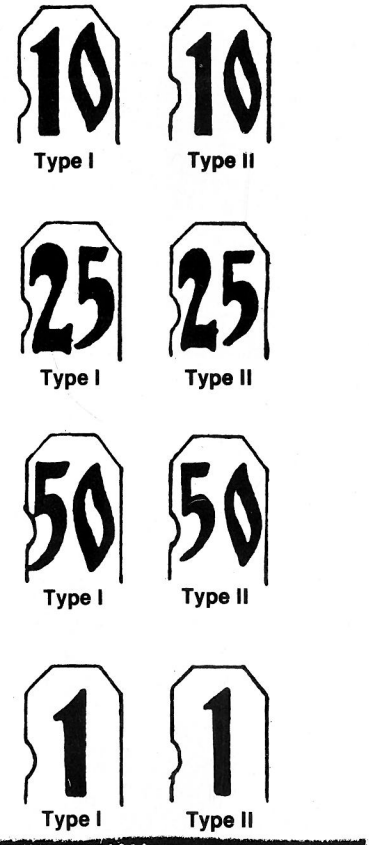
50 bani—for telegrams, parcels, money orders (carmine rose, red);
1 leu—for telegrams, parcels, money orders (violet, lilac);
2 lei—for fiscal and administrative documents (blue);
5 lei—for fiscal and administrative documents (gray, dark gray);
50 lei—for fiscal and administrative documents (yellow, orange).

The four lower values, besides being used on domestic postal matter, had to be affixed on official applications and certificates. The three higher values were primarily used on fiscal documents and obliterated with an administrative cancel or a linear "ANULAT" (void) or "CANCELAT" (cancelled) marking. While at times they can be found with postal cancellations (on inter-departmental monetary transfer forms for taxes on telegraph and telephone), the majority of these are favor cancelled. In the rare cases when such are found on postal documents, such as forms accompanying cash shipments, their postal usage can be positively established, and they have philatelic value.

All seven value show the same design, an allegory of a young woman, in Romanian national costume, attending an old man and a child. The top reads "ASISTENTA SOCIALA" (social assistance), while the bottom bears the denomination and the word "ROMANIA." Note the absence of the word "Posta" (posts). Below the lower left corner, in small and undistinguishable letters, are the designer's or engraver's initials.

The stamps were printed on sheets of 100, at the Printing Works in Bucharest, on white paper of varying thickness. For the 10, 25, 50 and proofs and, in 1958, he received the Grand Prix of the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Bucharest. For his outstanding activity, Ilie C. Demetrescu was named Honorary Member of the Philatelists' Association of Romania.

nifier, it is no wonder that all specialized Romanian catalogues identified two types for only the 10 and 25 bani stamps. The late O. Gh. Boehm, a very meticulous researcher, differentiated the two types for the 50 bani and the 1 leu stamp.



ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamps

Seven values were issued for various purposes:

10 bani—for postal cards and picture postcards (light green, green, dark green, yellowish green, dark yellowish green, green gray, bluish green, olive green);

25 bani—for letters (black, gray black, olive black, gray);

bani as well as the 1 leu stamps two cliches were used, differing in design (thickness and height) of the numerals of the denominations. The two different types for each of these values result from the original cliches being reengraved in order that the numerals not dominate the entire design. The differences being difficult to see even with a mag-

Type I numerals are thicker and those of the 10, 25 bani and 1 leu are also taller than those of the reengraved Type II (3.75 mm. instead of 3.50 mm. thick for the 10 and 25 bani values; 4.25 mm. instead of 3.75 mm. for the 1 leu value). Type I of the 1 leu has the "1" 0.8 mm. thick, while on the Type II this is only 0.7 mm. On the Type II 50 bani, the

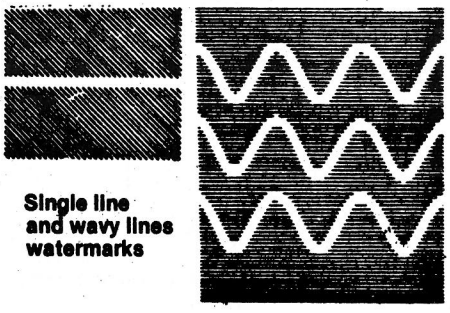
"5" is 0.1 mm. thinner than that on Type I. A variety known on the 50 bani (Type II) has numeral "0" broken. For the high values I have not been able to establish different types or varieties, due to a lack of larger quantities of such material for study purposes.

Broken "O" variety

The printing was deficient. While some stamps show a perfect impression, others are very poorly produced, especially the lower values (10, 25 bani), probably because they were printed in larger quantities and their plates were worn out faster than those of the higher values. According to Boehm, impressions of the heads of nails (used to affix the cliches to the printing board) can sometimes be seen between rows of stamps. The design was likewise primitively done.

The papers utilized are as follows:

1. white, unwatermarked, thin or medium, smooth, sometimes with fine pores;
2. white, unwatermarked, very thin, transparent, always smooth (pelure);
3. white, vertically (slightly oblique) laid, smooth;
4. white or slightly yellowish, unwatermarked, very thick, smooth or porous. Varieties are: laid paper, 10 bani green and 25 bani black; very thick paper, 10 bani green, 25 bani black, 50 bani rose, 2 lei blue and 50 lei yellow; pelure, 25 bani black; single horizontal or vertical watermark line, 10 bani green and 25 bani black; horizontal or vertical wavy lines watermark only on 25 bani black, 1928 issue (Bavarian paper).



Single line and wavy lines watermarks

Perforations found on these stamps are line: 13½, 11½, 11½x13½, 13½x11½, and comb: 13½x14. Stamps imperforate horizontally or vertically as well as with double vertical perforations are known as follows:

a) pairs, imperforate vertically: 10 B (dark green), 25B (olive black), 50 B (red), 1 L (lilac), 2 L and 5L.

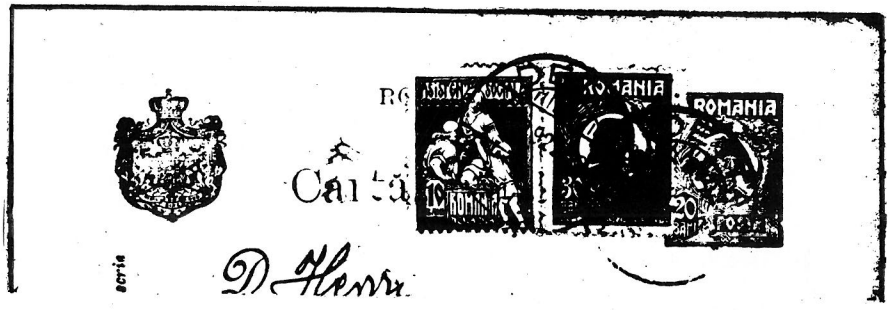
b) pairs, imperforate horizontally: 25 B (olive black) and 50 L.

c) double vertical perforation: 10 B (dark green), 25 B and 5 L.

At some time during the spring of 1924 the rates must have changed. On postcards, 25 bani charity stamps replaced the 10 bani stamps earlier used. In rare cases, a 50 bani charity stamp can be found on postcards, but this is probably due to the unavailability of the proper lower value, or to the lack of knowledge of the sender, rather than because of another rate increase.

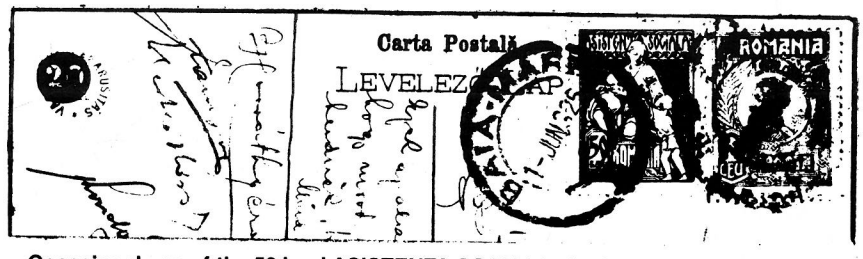
The requirement to affix "social assistance" stamps on domestic mail was strictly enforced, unlike the later introduced postal tax stamps for culture, aviation, etc. In 1922, postal tax due stamps (Scott RAJ 12-19, Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue PF.17-24) were issued to be used when the required charity stamps were not affixed on postal matter. In 1922, 10 and 20 bani stamps were printed on white and grayish white paper; in 1924, 10, 20, 25 and 50 bani stamps were prepared on greenish yellow paper, and in 1926, 25 and 50 bani stamps were made on white paper.

All denominations show the same design which is almost identical to that of the postal tax due stamps issued in 1916, the only difference being that the text on the bottom reads "ASISTENTA SOCIALA" instead of "TIMBRU DE AJUTOR." On the top it reads "ROMANIA," below it, inside a round frame is the denomination, below that, slightly to the left, it reads "TAXA DE PLATA" (postal tax). The name or the initials of the designer or engraver do not appear on these stamps but on the almost identical "Timbru de Ajutor" postal tax due stamps, in the lower left corner is an imprint: "AUDISIO," probably the designer or the



Initial use of the 10 bani ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamp on postal cards

Later use of the 25 bani ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamp on postcards



Occasional use of the 50 bani ASISTENTA SOCIALA charity stamp on postcards

ASISTENTA SOCIALA postal tax due stamps

engraver of both of these sets. The size of the design is 19.0x24.5 mm., and of the entire stamp is 22.5x28.5 mm., with minor variations. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 at the Printing Works in Bucharest. The color of the printing varies from brown to dark brown, yellowish brown, olive brown and reddish brown. The papers used are as follows:

1. white, medium thick, smooth;
2. grayish white, medium thick, smooth (very rare with a horizontal or vertical watermark line);
3. greenish yellow, medium thick, smooth;
4. white, thin, smooth.

Varieties known include the 1922 10 and 20 bani stamps on watermarked paper with one horizontal line (scarce). The 1924 20 bani stamp can be found with the frame line broken in the lower-left corner, as well as with a diagonal line from the letter "S" in "SOCIALA" running to the lower-left side of the frame. The 25 bani of 1924 is known with double vertical perforation 13½. From the end of June 1926 until Sept. 1926, in Northern Moldavia, the 50 bani postal tax due stamp fo 1924 was used bisected (vertically or horizontally) on court summonses due to a lack of 25 bani charity stamps.

This presentation is only a starting point for further research by those who have access to large quantities of these stamps. Many questions still have to be answered concerning the number of stamps printed, the rates applicable in different periods, the names of the designer, engraver, etc.

SOME COMMENTS REGARDING THE "SPIC DE GRIU" DEFINITIVES OF 1900 AND REPORTING AN UNLISTED WATERMARK VARIETY.

Paul Laptev, 17 Sloane Ave., London SW3 3JD, England

At the May 10-11, 1980 symposium on Romanian Postage Stamps and Postal History held in London, Mr. Hans Georg of Baden-Baden in West Germany presented a very detailed and excellent study of the Carol I issues of 1893 and subsequent years well into the nineteen hundreds. To Romanian collectors, these stamps have come to be known as the "Spic de Griu" sets because of the spikes of wheat that are incorporated in the frame ornamentation of most of the known values. This applies to the 1 BAN, 1 BANI, 1½, 3 and 15 bani, 1 leu, 2 lei and also to the unissued version of the 25 bani value which was nevertheless used the following year (1894) on the international money-order forms.

While other English translations of Spic de Griu have been used, I suggest that spike of wheat is the correct one as confirmed in the cover story of the January 1981 issue of the "Scientific American", a source few people would want to dispute. The latin SPICA is the common ancestor not only of SPIC and SPIKE but also of the french EPI, the accepted translation into that language. Wheat on the other hand is the universally correct translation for GRIU (formerly GRAU), whereas the generic term "corn" would only be correct inasmuch as it describes the main crop cereal in a given region or country, and could therefore mean not only wheat, but also mais (as in corn on the cob) etc. Finally, the term "ear" describes the same, but unshelled cob of corn.

The definitives thus referred to were issued between 1893 and 1908 but the design was reused in 1911 for a 1½ bani yellow newspaper stamp and again in 1918 on the 25, 40 & 50 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei values of a mixed war set.

An illustration of the potential open to the specialized collector, emerges from the description of the July 1900 special issue on watermarked paper known as "Fragmente". This pseudo-watermark was dry-stamped onto the paper after its manufacture and extended over a vertical 4 x 5 block of stamps (112 x 138 mm) thus showing the complete coat-of-arms of the Romanian Kingdom six times per sheet of 150. The paper was imported in rolls from France and carried the manufacturer's own watermark along the edge of the paper. the inscription: JOHANNOT ET Cie ANNONAY in 7.5 mm high letters extended over a length of 162 mm or between 6 and 7 times the height of a stamp, which was repeated at intervals approximating the height of a full sheet.

Normally, this paper trade-mark fell outside the printed area and was eventually discarded as sheet margin. Occasionally however due to shift of the paper during the printing process, it would fall in the area of the marginal (right or left of the sheet) columns of stamps showing parts of the letters. The shift varied quite a lot, resulting in cases (extremely rare) of the second column of stamps from the edge of the sheet also showing Johannot watermark fragments.

This second watermark is frequently found on the unwatermarked issues of the Spike of Wheat printed on Johannot paper (due to the vastly larger number printed) and Mr. Georg, in his paper argues that since it is possible to find stamps having both the Coat-of-Arms fragments as well as parts of the Johannot watermark, such "finds" would be so rare as to rank close to the first issue of Moldavian Bulls of 1858. This of course is somewhat of an exaggeration but the authors of the 1974 Romania Specialized Catalog (CMPR) who list the existence of these anomalies, assign value ranging from 100 times to 30 times basic for the 3 bani, 15 bani and 1 leu values of the set.

The inference is that other values exhibiting the two watermarks had not been reported at the time of CMPR going to print.

I am pleased to report that I have in my collection a 40 bani dark green of the dual watermark variety. It comes from the second row, fifth (far right) position in the block of 25, (position B-5) with the Coat-of-Arms fragment superimposed on the letters NOT as illustrated. The watermarks are shown as seen from the front of the stamp indicating that the Johannot caption is right side up from the edge of the sheet as would be expected. CMPR lists the Johannot varieties as existing in positions 5 and 7 only for the unwatermarked and Coat-of-Arms fragments issues of the Spike of Wheat stamps.

The same paper was also used in 1903 for the "Caisori" Postal Headquarters Inauguration set but, in this case, I have always found the watermark in positions 6 and 8 for which I have no explanation to offer.

I hope that the above will be of interest and will generate further comments on the use of the Johannot paper as well as further reports of dual watermark anomalies.

1944-45
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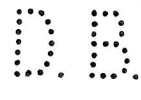
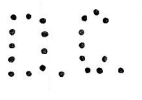
ROMANIAN PERFINS

VOJTECH MAXA

P.O. BOX 50, 170 00 Prague, Czechoslovakia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		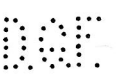		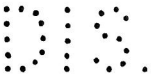		
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					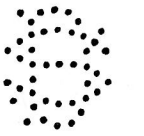	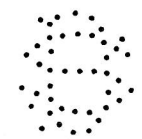
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		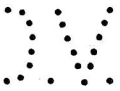				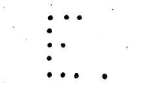
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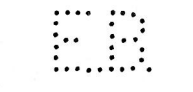				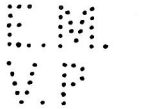		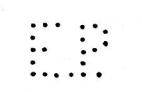
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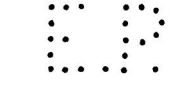			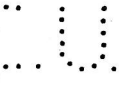			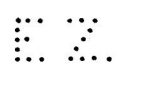
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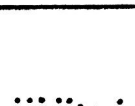
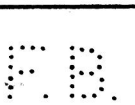
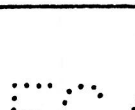
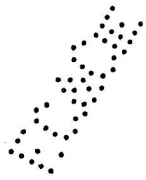
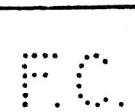
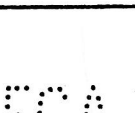
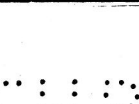
F						
	F 1	F 2 Bucuresti	F 3 Braila	F 4	F 5	F 6 Bucuresti
						
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	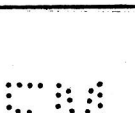	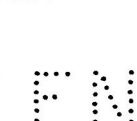	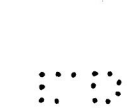		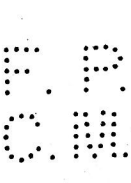	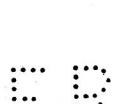
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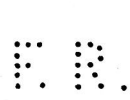	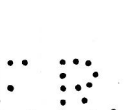	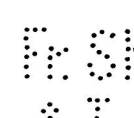				
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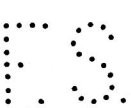	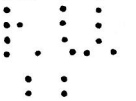					
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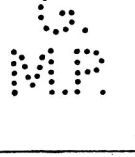
G						
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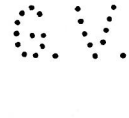
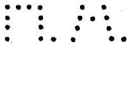
					**H**	
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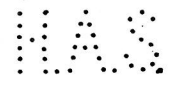	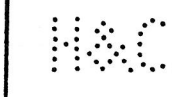		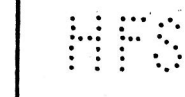	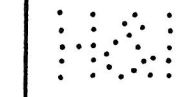	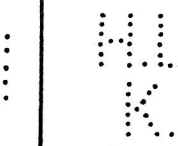	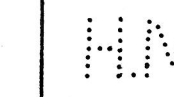
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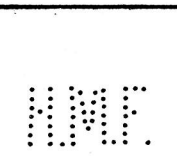	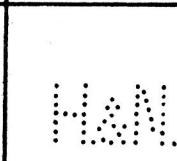	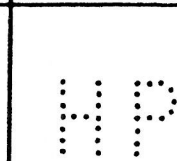	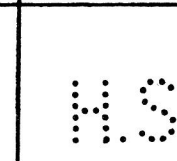	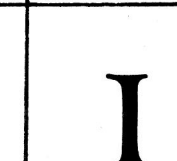	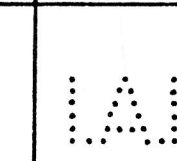	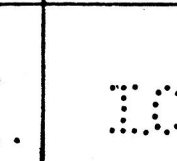
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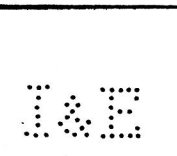	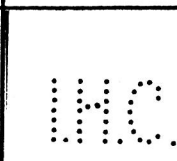	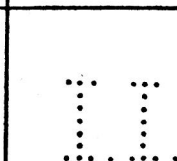	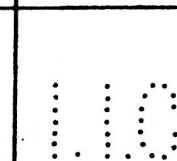	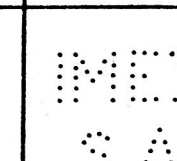	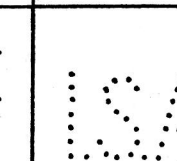	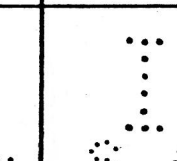
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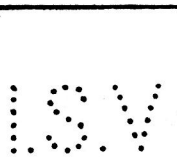	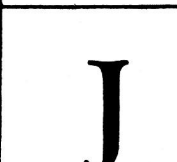	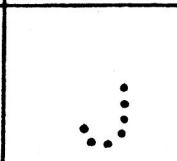	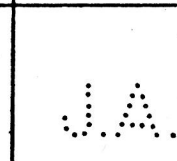	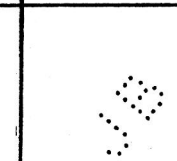	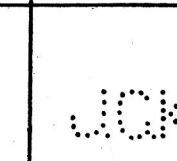	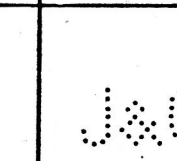
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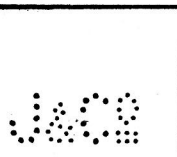	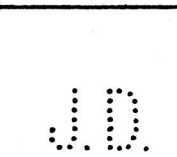	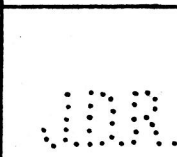	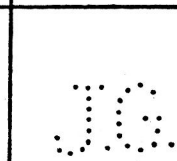	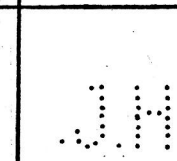	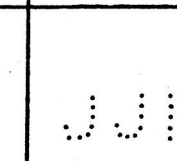	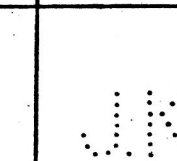
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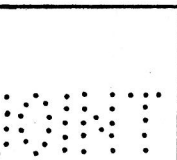	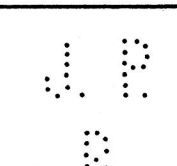	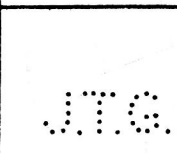		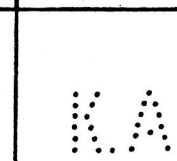	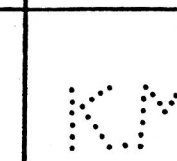	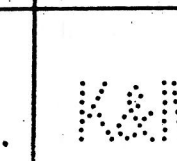
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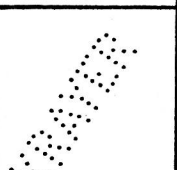	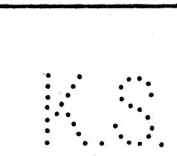	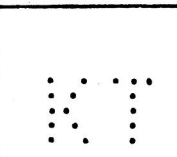	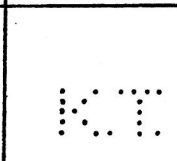		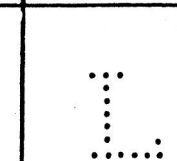	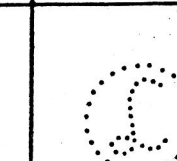
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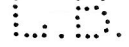						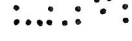
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					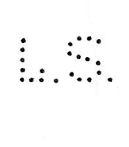	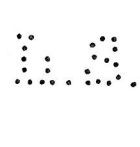
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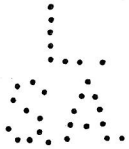	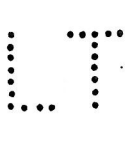		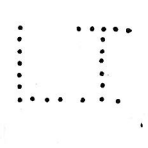	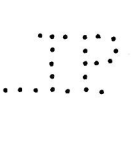		
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		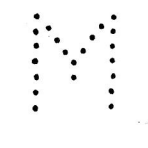				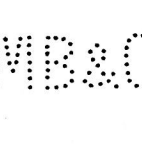
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		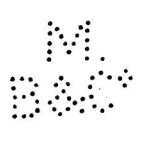				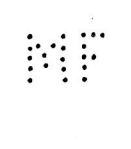
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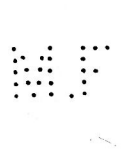						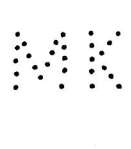
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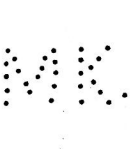
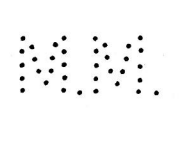
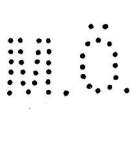
						
M 21 Bucuresti	M 22 Craiova	M 23	M 24 Bucuresti	M 25	M 26	M 27

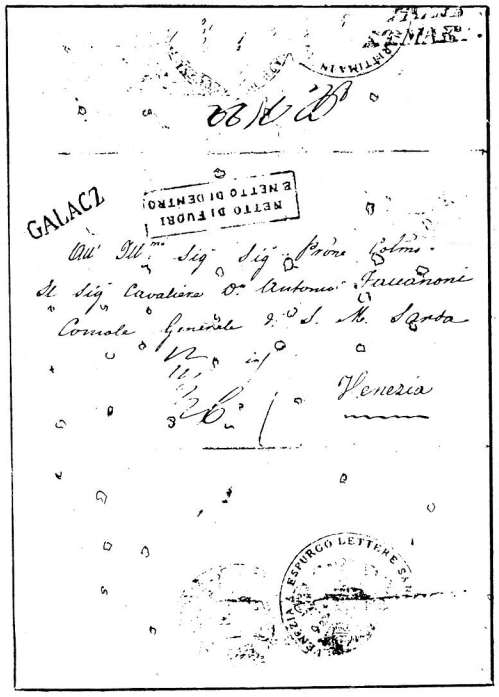
A LETTER FROM GALATZ TO VENICE, 1842

George Pataki

In "Bolletino Prefilatelico e Storia-Postale", No. 19, April 1981, Adriano Cattani penned "Considerazioni su un bollo di Sanita usato a Venezia" (Examination of a Disinfection Marking used in Venice). The article presents a cover originating in Moldavia, and is, therefore, of interest to the Romanian specialist.

The letter was mailed on March 2, 1842, from Galatz, by the General Consul M. Sardo, to Venice, Italy. It bears a scarce "GALACZ" marking of the Austrian Consular Post Office. This office used it from 1837 to the mid 1840s. From Galatz, the letter passed the Moldavian-Austrian border at Pojana (variously spelled as Poiana, Bojana, Bojan) where it was perforated and fumigated and a manuscript "R.N. 22" (Raucher Nummer 22 - the 22nd disinfection performed in that year) was applied on it. From Pojana, the letter was transported through the Austrian Empire, via Czernowitz (Chernovtsy, today in U.S.S.R.), Krakow (today Poland), Vienna and to Pontebba and Venice. The cover also bears an administrative marking, probably of the Italian Consulate in Galatz, a round disinfection marking reading "ESPURGO LETTERE SANITA MARITTIMA DI VENEZIA (Maritime Health Letter Cleansing of Venice), evidently applied in Venice, as well as another disinfection marking in a rectangular frame reading "NETTO DI FUORI / E NETTO DI DENTRO" (which according to Cattani was also applied in Venice) plus another illegible marking consisting of large capital letters.

The cover, part of the Vollmeier collection, is a nice Romanian-Austrian-Italian postal history item.



NAPOSTA '81

Dr. L.N. Cristea

Between April 28th and May 3rd, 1981, Stuttgart hosted the National Stamp Exhibition - NAPOSTA '81. This show was of interest to Romanian philatelists as it offered the first public view of the Horst-Dieter Scherrer (of Hamburg, Germany) collection. His exhibit was restricted to the classic lithographic issues of 1865-1872. Awarded a vermeil medal, this collection follows the traditional pattern - with transfer-blocks, main varieties (paper, shades, retouches) unused, used and on cover. Among the major items it included are rare marginal mutiples (such as the 20 Parale, 1866, thick paper) not previously recorded; a vary rare 4 Bani upper right corner of the damaged plate variety; unusual franking combinations on letters (such as the 18 Bani 1868 plus 3 Bani 1870; 15 Bani 1869 plus two copies of the 2 Bani 1868; 10 Bani plus 10 Bani plus 25 Bani on back and 50 Bani on face of cover, all 1869 issue; pair of 10 Bani 1869 plus 5 Bani 1871; 10 Bani Emergency Issue of 1872 on circular; postal receipt with bisected 10 Bani 1869; another receipt with 2 plus 3 Bani). The single used copies offered an important selection of postmarks, among which were Bolgrad, R.Valcea, Tg.Frumos, Cahul and Vaslui. Some of the mint multiples, such as a block of 18 of the 3 Bani 1870, were of great freshness, and had not been previously recorded.

The gold-medal Romania classic collection of the London 1980 Exhibition (displayed by Hans Georg, of Baden-Baden Germany), enlarged and partially remounted, was included in the Court of Honor of NAPOSTA '81. The same collector exhibited in the competition class a new selection of his Paris-Bucharest issues, followed by "Perle (Pearls), "Vultur" (Eagle), and "Cifra in patru colturi" (Numerals in four corners). This exhibit was likewise awarded a vermeil medal. The Georg presentation and study were pleasant surprises. It would be of interest to examine his full collection of post-classic issues to record other discoveries by this assiduous researcher.

On the afternoon of May 2nd, members of the "German Romania Circle" met under the leadership of Fritz Heimbuchler and examined several proposals for their future activity. These will be mentioned in the next circular of the study group.

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OUR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION FEES ON TIME. DUE TO THE INCREASE IN OUR EXPENSES WE CANNOT SEND FOLLOW UP NOTICES.

REVIEW:

Teme si Subiecte Filatelice din Istoria Romaniei (Philatelic Themes and Subjects from Romania's History)

Written by Iosif Micu and published in Bucharest in 1980 by "Albatros", 245 pages, hard cover, 28 lei.

The book is interesting for history buffs and topical collectors alike. It contains a large number of black and white illustrations and 10 beautiful color plates. It has 17 chapters such as: "The Formation of the Romanian People", "The 1848 Revolution", "The Unification of the Principalities", "Resistance and Anti-fascist Struggle in Romania", etc.

It is entertaining and educational reading.

REVIEW:

BULETIN INFORMATIV Nr. 3/1980

Published by the Timis County chapter of the Philatelist' Association of Romania, 38 pages. It contains six articles including: "Tudor Vladimirescu - Romanian revolutionar and patriot" by Lt. Col. C. Gombos; "Early Romanian postal receipts" by D. Passalega; "Chronological data regarding postal history in Banat" by Mircea Telegut; and "The olympic torch's relay through Romania' by D. Taran and A. Vallo.

REVIEW:

BULETIN INFORMATIV Nr. 4/1980

Published as above, 37 pages. It has ten articles including: "The 1784 peasant revolution in Transylvania" by Lt. Col. C. Gombos; "The posts from 1920 to 1940" by Mircea Telegut; "About the BANATFILA '80 and TIMINDFILA '80 philatelic exhibitions" by P. Cojereanu and N. Opreanu.

NOTE: The above bulletins were discontinued in 1981 due to regulations governing such publications.

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WIEDPOSTA 1981 (March 28-29)

Dr. L.N. Cristea

In the picturesque town of Neuwied (on the Rhine), West Germany, collectors of Romanian stamps recently had the opportunity to study for two days some of Romania's post-classic issues. The exhibition, organized by the Neuwied Stamp Association, and held under the patronage of Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Wied, was dedicated to Elisabeth, Romania's first Queen. She was the wife of King Carol I. Formerly Princess of Wied, Elisabeth is also known by her pen name, Carmen Silva.

As it was almost one century since the 1881 proclamation of the Romanian Kingdom, the organizers decided to reproduce two Romanian stamps. One shows the Queen at her desk in Peles Palace and the other as a spinner. They are imprinted on an envelope and a postcard. These two entires reproduce the "3 Lei General Exhibition Stamp, of 1906 (Scott #206, Minkus #256, CMPR #256) and the "10 Bani Welfare Fund of 1906" (Scott #B3, Minkus #212, CMPR #159).

The envelope displays the design in orange and dark brown and bears the imprint of the 60 Pfenning lilac of the 1980 Castles series. The postcard displays the design in red brown and bears the imprint of the 50 Pfenning green, of the same series. Both entires also exist without imprinted German stamps. While the envelopes are identical with and without the imprinted stamps, the postcard without the German stamp is brown.

WIEDPOSTA 1981 used a special postmark of an oval, frameless type.

Within the exhibition's Court of Honor Hans Georg of Baden-Baden presented 8 frames of the Paris and Bucharest issues (1872-79). In the competition class the same collector exhibited a very interesting study of the 1892-1908 "Spic de Griu" (Wheat Ear, Spike of Wheat) issues. Another German collector, Voss of Velbert, showed pages from his German Occupation of Romania (1917-18) collection. Mrs. Georg, in a comprehensive and well presented exhibit, included stamps of Romania within her thematic collection of "National Costumes of European Countries." Within the youth exhibits, a modern Romania collection was displayed by Miss Angelika Daus of Dietzenbach.

The judges rewarded the Romanian collections with one gold, two vermeil and a special honorary prize for the exhibit in the Court of Honor. This prize, awarded by the Prince of Wied, took the form of a special edition of Carmen Silva's poems.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

a 624-page ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.

WANTED for postmark study ROMANIAN postal cards, postcards and covers used before 1945. Send them with asking price. George Pataki, Ed.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBILULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the HOHE RINNE local posts, is available from the EDITOR for $11.00.

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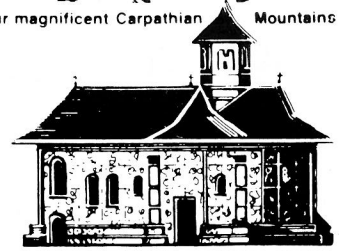

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POSTAL MARKINGS USED IN DOLJ COUNTY (1830-1900)

Prof. Silviu Iser, Craiovita Noua, Bl.171D, Sc.1, Apt. 2, 110 Craiova, Romania

Due to the reorganization of the Romanian posts, patterned after the Austrian model (which from 1732 had operated a consular posts office in Craiova), three localities in Dolj County (BECHET, CRAIOVA, and CALAFAT) received cancellers in 1853. These prephilatelic markings have various sizes: BEKETU, 29/5.5 mm.; CRAIOVA, 28.5/3.8 mm.; CALAFATU, 33/4.5 mm. Under the town name, in Cyrillic lettering, is the date: the first three letters of the month (also in Cyrillic letters) and the day (without year). The majority of the prephilatelic covers display only a departure markings, covers with both departure and arrival markings being very scarce.

Markings used to obliterate stamps were introduced in 1862. The posts had been reorganized after the unification of the two principalities, Moldavia and Walachia, with Bucharest as the capital. These markings which obliterated the stamps of the United Principalities and of the Prince Cuza issue, are of the double circle type with 21 & 13 mm. diameters. The letters are serifed capitals. The bottom contains a six-pointed star. In the center, as a fraction with Arabic numerals, is the date: the date on top and the month on bottom. CALAFAT and TINTARENI had this type of cancellation. That of BECHET was similar, but the six-pointed star at bottom shows bifurcated rays. It is interesting that such a postmark is unknown for CRAIOVA, the county's capital, although it is listed among the post offices supplied with this type of canceller (in Monitorul Oficial No. 197 of September 6, 1862). From about the same period, another CRAIOVA cancel is known, also a double circle type. Its diameters are 23 & 14 mm., with capital letters, and a simple arabesque ornament at the bottom. This was the first cancellation with arabesque ornament used in Romania.

Cancellations with large arabesque ornaments, introduced after 1862, and used in CRAIOVA, were of two types. The first type, with 24 & 16 mm. diameters, had the ornaments smaller and less clearly drawn than on the second type, which has 26 & 15 mm. diameters. BECHET, an active port on the Danube with a border guard and a quarantine station, also had two types of cancellers differing in size and inscription. While the 25 & 16 mm. diameter BECHET cancellation has a richer arabesque, the 26 & 14 mm. diameter cancellation has a simpler arabesque. Despite the fact that some of the more than 40 offices such as CRAIOVA, BECHET, BUCURESTI, IASI and GALATI had 2 or 3 types, CALAFAT, an important locality, did not have any such cancellation.

The first cancellation with time indication "DIM" (Dimineata-morning) and "SERA" (Seara-evening), were introduced in 1866. Important post offices received these types of cancellers and among the first was CRAIOVA, which had two types. The first, with 23 & 13 mm. diameters, had the name spelled "CRAIOVA", with a "J" instead of an "I", and two filled-in six-pointed stars. The larger type, with 27 & 15 mm. diameters, has the name spelled normally ("CRAIOVA") and a different six-pointed star; the rays emerge from a small circle. CALAFAT's cancellation with indication of time shows a five-pointed filled-in star and have 26 & 14 mm. diameters.

In 1869, frameless, linear markings were introduced. These show the town name in 6 mm. high "antique" letters. These markings were used by telegraphic offices and sometimes, also, as postal markings. In Dolj county, markings of this type were used in CRAIOVA, CALAFAT, and FILIASI which was a branch of the Tintareni post office.

After 1870 the number of post offices greatly increased. Post offices were established in many railway stations. Consequently, many new postmarks, with a variety of ornaments, came into use.

Administrative markings of railway stations often were postally used. Some railway stations had their own postal cancellers, examples: ISALNITA and RACARI (both introduced in 1870).

Around 1895, many cancels appeared, such as CRAIOVA, LIVEZI, MOTATEI, ISALNITA and RACARI, all with the word "GARA" at bottom and all with 30 & 19 mm. diameters (with the exception of RACARI GARA which is slightly smaller), and bearing ornaments at left and right of the word GARA (railway station), with the date on a single line and the year consisting of the last three digits.

Another type of railway service marking was also used: within a 32 x 20 or 30 20 mm. oval is the name of the station (CIRCEA, PELLESCI, etc.), the date with the year composed of 2 or 3 digits, and at the top, the initials "C.F.R." (CALEA FERATA ROMANA - Romanian Rail Road). Another railway marking displays the station's name (example (CIRCEA) in a 35 x 14 mm. rectangle with cut corners.)

Besides dated town cancellations, various grid cancellations and service markings can be found on covers. It is interesting that the "DUPA PLECARE" (after leaving) marking (which was applied on covers when a letter was deposited at the post office after the mail already left) was applied together with dated town cancels, both upon receipt and dispatch of mail.

Special type of markings, especially for a border county such as Dolj, are the quarantine and border guard seals. These have been amply described by Kiriac Dragomir in "The Earliest Romanian Quarantine Seals and Cachets" (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3/1980).

Military post offices have a well known representative in Dolj county. A famous marking was used at the POIANA headquarters during the 1877 War of Independence.

Another type of marking is that of the rural post offices. In the 1895-1900 period, more than 50 such offices were in operation in this county alone. By decree No. 317 of February 26, 1865, Dolj county (as well as other counties) received rural cancellers. Postal dispatch services were organized in all district seats. The first cancellations used by rural offices, with 22 & 13 mm. diameters show slightly larger letters than of urban office. The date is expressed as a fraction (day over month) and a small star appears at bottom. It is sometimes difficult to pinpoint their locations. For example, "CIMPULU" is a name common to Bazau Dolj, Mehedinti and Prahova Counties. The rural cancels introduced later are easier to identify. These display the county name at top and the district at bottom, and the date in the center. The ornaments vary from one postmark to the other. The diameters are: 28 & 16 and 26 & 15 mm. Such cancellations are known from AMARADIA, BALTA, DUMBRAVA, and JIU DE SUSU. were introduced. Having 26 & 15 mm. diameters, they mark the year by its two last digits. A large variety exists of the ornaments and of the ways of abbreviating the word for district "PLASA" such as "PL.", "PLAS.".

After 1800, cancellations of the rural offices display the names of the villages, districts and counties. For example, "Comuna Maglavitu Pl. Cimpu Jud. Dolju" bears the date in three lines and has 24 & 13 mm. diameters.

After 1890, several rural post offices introduced cancellations having 25 & 15 mm. diameters. The name of the village appears at top and the name of the county at bottom. Between them are ornaments, and, in the center, the date in three lines. Some examples from the more than 50 such villages are: BAILESTI; CIRNA; CARAULA; LIVEZILE; MARU MARE; MURTA; PIELESTI; VERBITA, etc. Some villages, such as COTOFENI and VERDITA, had exquisite postmarks even before 1890. These are of the single circle type 24-25 mm. in diameter, with attractive ornaments and lettering. The name of a village was sometimes spelled in two ways in the same year, for example: CACIULESTI and CACIULESCI.

Foreign posts operated in Dolj county besides the first post offices in Craiova (already mentioned) which was an Austrian consular post (starting 1732). Austrian consular and military post offices operated in 1854 in connection with the Russian-Turkish War, as well those of the D.D.S.G. private navigation company. An administrative marking with the text "K K Oester Agenzie Starostie in Kraiova" has been found on a passport dated 1861.

Markings with the text "POST EXPE. KRAIOWA", "POST CRAIOVA" and "K K OST F P KRAIOVA" are also known. The D.D.S.G. post offices in Romanian ports began operating July 15, 1846. Several types of cancellations used by these offices in CALAFAT and BECHET (PIQUET) are known on the stamps of the company and on shipping forms for packages.

We illustrate cancellations used by various offices in Dolj County. Those of the city of Craiova were presented in a previous article (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 4, 1980) and are summarized here in a table.

Text	Shape	Size mm.	Ornaments	Remarks
KALAFATU	linear	32/8.5	(Cyrillic)	prephilatelic
CALAFATUL	double circle	22 & 13	star	philatelic
CALAFAT DIM	double circle	26 & 14	2 stars	1866
CALAFAT SERA	double circle	26 & 14	2 stars	1866
CALAFAT	linear	26/5.5	-	telegraph
CALAFAT	single circle	17	five pointed star	text ½ circle
CALAFAT	single circle	17	five pointed star	text 1/3 circle
CALAFAT	double circle	23 & 13	Maltese cross	
CALAFATUL	double circle	22 & 13	five pointed star	
CALAFAT	double circle	24 & 13	star	
CALAFAT	double circle	30 & 18	flower 4 petals	date 1 line, year 3 digits
CALAFAT	double circle	25 & 14	filled in, six pointed star	year 2 digits
CALAFAT	double circle	26 & 17	flower 4 petals	
CALAFAT	rectangular	21/27.5		yellow registration label
KARANTINA KALAFATU	oval	33		1831
PRINCIPATELE UNITE/ KARANTINA KALAFATU	round	40.5		1859
BEKETU	linear	29/12	(cyrillic)	prephilatelic
BECETUL	double circle	21 & 13	dot with 6 rays	philatelic
BECHETU	double circle	25 & 16	rich arabesque	
BECHET	double circle	26 & 14	rich arabesque	
BECHET	single circle	17	five pointed star	"thimble"
BEKET	single circle	23	Maltese cross	
BECHET	double circle	23.5 & 14	3 acanthus flowers	
BECHET	double circle	30 & 18	flower 4 petals	year 3 digits
PRINCIPATELE UNITE/ KARANTINA BEKETU	round	40.5	-	1859
DIRECTIA KARANTINI BIKET		32		1857
TINTARENI	double circle	22 & 13	five pointed star	philatelic
FILIASI	linear	29/5.5	-	telegraph
FILIASI	single circle	23	Maltese Cross	philatelic
FILIASI	double circle	24 & 15	flowery	philatelic
FILIASI	double circle	25 & 16	six pointed star	philatelic
			RAILROAD MARKINGS	
			I. Service (administrative) markings:	
C.F.R. PELLESCI	oval frame		-	year 2 digits
C.F.R. PELLESCI	oval frame		-	year 3 digits
C.F.R. CIRCEA	oval frame		-	year 2 digits
C.F.R. CIRCEA	oval frame		-	year 3 digits
C.F.R. CRAIOVA	oval frame			
C.F.R. COTOFENI	oval frame			
C.F.R. ISALNITA	oval frame			
CARCEA	linear	35/14		rectangular frame
C.F.R. CRAIOVA	rectangular		date on 3 lines	1892
C.F.R. FILIASI	rectangular		date on 3 lines	1892
C.F.R. RACARI	rectangular		date on 3 lines	1892
			II. Railroad Post Office Markings:	
RACARI GARA	double circle	29 & 18		
CRAIOVA GARA	double circle	30 & 19		
LIVEZI GARA	double circle	30 & 19		
COTOFENI GARA	double circle	30 & 19		
JSALNITA GARA	double circle	30 & 19		
MOTATEI GARA	double circle	30 & 19		
			RURAL POST OFFICE MARKINGS	
JUDETUL DOL-JIU (top) PL. BALTA	double circle	28 & 16	dot with 8 rays	date fraction
JUDETUL DOL-JIU PL. AMARADIA	double circle	26 & 15	flowery	date fraction
JUDETUL DOL-JIU PL. DUMBRAVA	double circle	28 & 16	flower 4 petals	date fraction
JUDETUL DOL-JIU PL. JIU DE SUSU	double circle	28 & 16	filled in five pointed star	date fraction
JUD. DOLJIU PL. BALTA	double circle	27 & 16	dot with 8 rays	date without year on 1 line

JUD. DOLJIU-PLASA BALTA	double circle	26 & 14	dot with 8 rays	
JUD. DOLJIU-PLAS DUMBRAVA	double circle	26 & 15	flower 4 petals	
JUD. DOLJIU-PLAS AMARADIA	double circle	26 & 15	2 negative "X"	
JUD. DOLJIU-PL. BALTA	double circle	25 & 14	2 negative "X"	date 3 lines
JUD. DOLJIU-PL. AMARADIA	double circle	26 & 14	2 negative "X"	
COM.MAGLAVITU PL. CAMPU JUD. DOLJIU	double circle	24 & 13	2 flowers w. 4 petals	date 3 lines
NEGOIU, ORODELU, MELINESTI(top) JUD. DOLJU (bottom)	double circle	26 & 15	2 flowers w. 4 petals	1893-94
VERBITA	single circle	25	2 horiz. rhombuses	no year, used in 1885
CETATEA	double circle	24 & 14	decorative motif	
COTOFENI	single circle	24	dec. motif	no date used in 1885
CARAULA (top) JUD. DOLJIU	double circle	25 & 15	2 side orman.	year 3 digits
AGEN. SPECIALA TERPEZITA-JUD. DOLJIU		29 & 18	2 flowers w. 4 petals	date 1 line year 3 digits 1893.
QUARTIER GEN. POIANA	double circle	28 & 14	date 3 lines	military

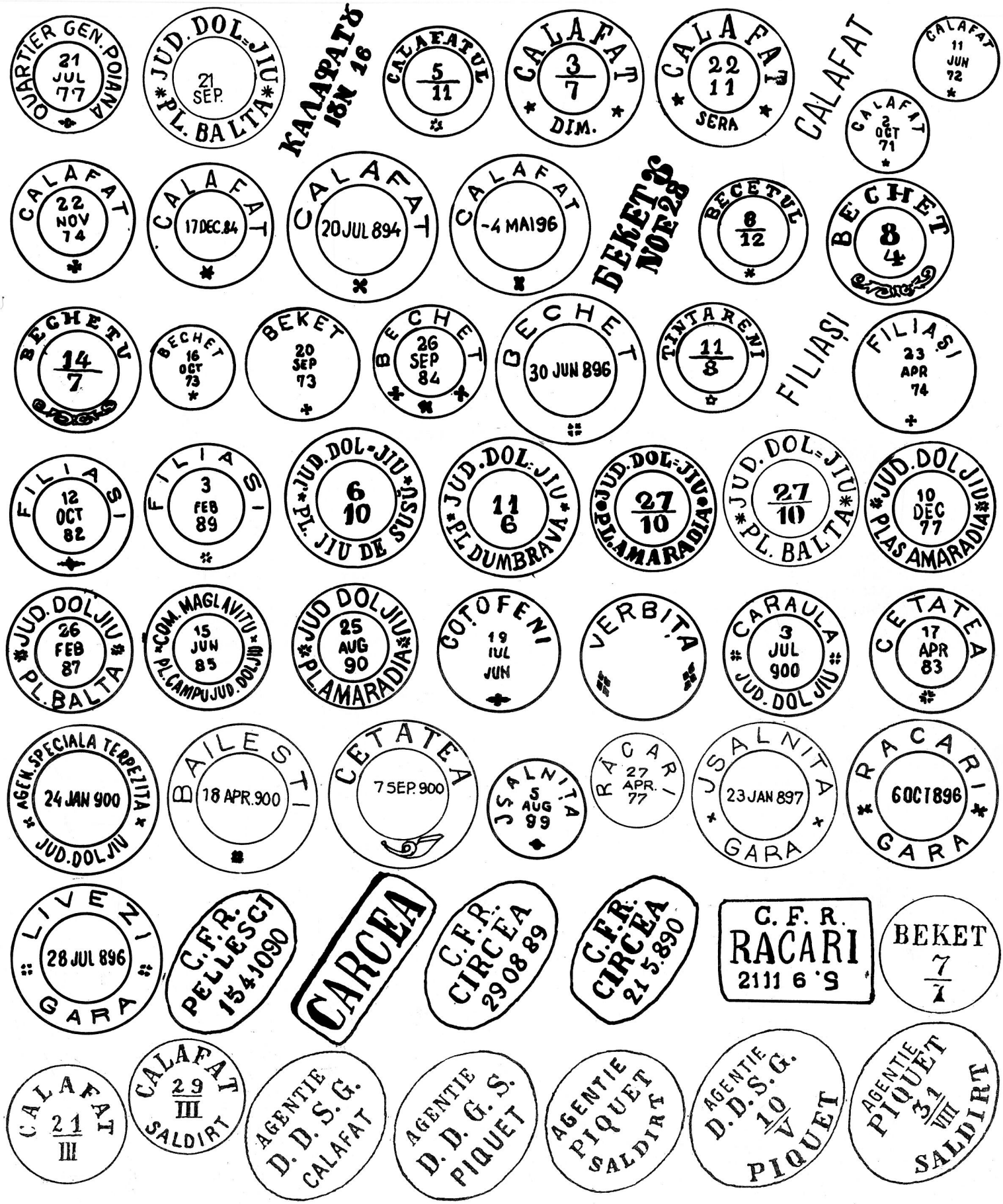
The Austrian D.D.S.G. agencies used in CALAFAT and PIQUET (BEKET) their own postal markings.

POSTAL MARKINGS OF CRAIOVA

Text	Shape	Size mm.	Ornaments	Year	Remarks
KRAIOVA	linear	28/9	(cyrillic)	1853-62	prephilatelic
CRAIOVA	double-circle	24/14	simple 12 mm arabesque	1862-64	philatelic
CRAIOVA	double-circle	24/16	complex 13.5 mm arabesque	1865	philatelic
CRAIOVA	double-circle	26/15	complex 17.5 mm arabesque	1865	philatelic
CRAJOVA DIM	double-circle	22/13	2 six pointed stars	1869	time indication
CRAJOVA SERA	double-circle	22/13	2 six pointed stars	1869	time indication
CRAJOVA DIM	double-circle	27/15	2 six pointed stars	1869	time indication
CRAJOVA SERA	double-circle	27/15	2 six pointed stars	1869	time indication
CRAIOVA	linear	24/4	-	1869	telegraphic
CRAIOVA	single-circle	17	five pointed star	1872-72	year 2 digits
CRAJOVA	single-circle	20	eight pointed star	1872-76	year 2 digits
CRAJOVA	single-circle	21	Maltese Cross	1873-77	-
CRAJOVA	single-circle	23	3 acanthus leaves	1873-80	-
CRAJOVA	single-circle	24	St. Andrew's cross	1874-78	-
CRAJOVA	double-circle	23/13	Maltese Cross	1877	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	24/14.5	flowery	1882	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	25/14	flowery	1885	-
CRAJOVA	double-circle	26/14	flowery	1883-87	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	25/15	flowery	1887	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	24/14.5	dot with 6 rays	1887	-
CRAJOVA	double-circle	26/14	flowery	1888-90	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	25/14.5	dot with 7 rays	1889	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	26/15	dot with 6 rays	1890	-
CRAJOVA CURSA 1	double-circle	25/17	2 dots with 6 rays	1888-92	-
CRAJOVA CURSA 2	double-circle	25/17	2 dots with 6 rays	1888-92	-
CRAJOVA CURSA 3	double-circle	25/17	2 dots with 6 rays	1888-92	-
CRAJOVA CURSA 4	double-circle	25/17	2 dots with 6 rays	1888-92	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	26/15		1891	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	24/15	flower, 4 petals	1892	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	26/17	flower, 4 petals	1893	date on one line
CRAIOVA CURSA 1	double-circle	25/14	-	1893-96	-
CRAIOVA CURSA 2	double-circle	25/14	-	1893-96	-
CRAIOVA CURSA 3	double-circle	25/14	-	1893-96	-
CRAIOVA CURSA 4	double-circle	25/14	-	1893-96	-
CRAIOVA	double-circle	29/18	dot with 4 rays	1894-96	date on one line
CRAIOVA	double-circle	27/17	five pointed star	1896	date on one line
CRAIOVA TELEGRAF	double-circle	30/19	2 dots with 4 rays	1898	date on one line
CRAIOVA GARA	double-circle	30/19	2 dots with 4 rays	1898	date on one line
CRAIOVA SUCURSAL	double-circle	31/19	2 dots with 4 rays	1900	date on one line
CRAIOVA	double-circle	30/19	postal horn	1899	-
CRAIOVA CURSA I	double-circle	25/15	-	1899-900	Roman num. with/without serifs
CRAIOVA CURSA II	double-circle	25/15	-	1899-900	Roman num. with/without serifs
CRAIOVA CURSA III	double-circle	25/15	-	1899-900	Roman num. with/without serifs
CRAIOVA CURSA IV	double-circle	25/15	-	1899-900	Roman num. with/without serifs
DIN CRAIOVA	rectangular	30/17	-	1870	yellow registration label

Railroad service markings with the text "C.F.R. CRAIOVA" were also used on mail.

POSTMARKS USED IN DOLJ COUNTY



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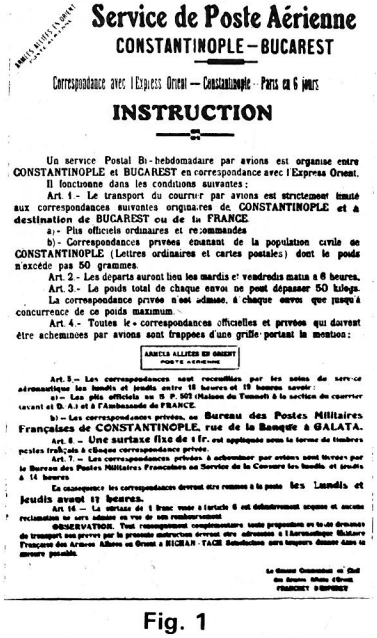
THE FIRST CONSTANTINOPLE-BUCHAREST AIR MAIL SERVICE 1919

MIHAIL POPOVICI, Str. Chopin No. 8, sc.C, et. II, apt. 47, 71454 Bucharest, Romania

After World War I, one of Romania's preoccupation was with development of air transport for passengers and mail. Nicolae Titulescu (1882-1941), one of Europe's most able diplomats in the period between the two world wars, in 1920 set up "Aviatia Civila" (Civil Aviation) and orgainzed "Compania Franco-Romana de Navigatia Aeriana" (French-Romanian Air Navigation Company) or CIDNA. This airline serviced the Bucharest-Constantinople portion of the PARIS-BUCHAREST-CONSTANTINOPLE route, inaugurated in Romania on September 12, 1922, as the obelisk located at the Baneasa (Bucharest) airport reminds us. Before 1921, when an agreement between the Turkish government and CIDNA was signed, mail transport between CONSTANTINOPLE and BUCHAREST generally had been achieved by sea and by rail. Romania, having always been a steppingstone between the West and the Near East, urgently needed to organize an air transport system to carry mail between Constantinople and Bucharest; from Bucharest this would be forwarded to Paris and other localities by the famous international train, the ORIENT-EXPRESS.



Service de Poste Aérienne
CONSTANTINOPLE – BUCAREST

Correspondance avec l'Express Orient – Constantinople – Paris en 6 jours

INSTRUCTION

Un service Postal Bi-hebdomadaire par avions est organisé entre CONSTANTINOPLE et BUCAREST en correspondance avec l'Express Orient. Il fonctionne dans les conditions suivantes :

Art. 1.- Le transport du courrier par avions est strictement limité aux correspondances suivantes originaires de CONSTANTINOPLE et à destination de BUCAREST ou de la FRANCE

a)- Plis officiels ordinaires et recommandés

b)- Correspondances privées émanant de la population civile de CONSTANTINOPLE (Lettres ordinaires et cartes postales) dont le poids n'excède pas 50 grammes.

Art. 2.- Les départs auront lieu les mardis et vendredis matin à 6 heures.

Art. 3.- Le poids total de chaque envoi ne peut dépasser 50 kilogs. La correspondance privée n'est admise, à chaque envoi que jusqu'à concurrence de ce poids maximum.

Art. 4.- Toutes les correspondances officielles et privées qui doivent être acheminées par avions sont frappées d'une griffe portant la mention :

ARMEES ALLIEES EN ORIENT
POSTE AERIENNE

Art. 5.- Les correspondances sont reconnues par les soins du service aéronautique les lundis et jeudis entre 10 heures et 19 heures savoir :

a)- Les plis officiels au S. P. 502 (Maison du Timonat) à la section du courrier ravant et D. A.I et à l'Ambassade de FRANCE.

b)- Les correspondances privées, au **Bureau des Postes Militaires Françaises de CONSTANTINOPLE**, rue de la Banque à GALATA.

Art. 6.- **Une surtaxe fixe de 1 fr.** est appliquée sous la forme de timbres postes françois à chaque correspondance privée.

Art. 7.- Les correspondances privées à acheminer par avions sont livrées par le Bureau des Postes Militaires Françaises au Service de la Censure les lundis et jeudis à 14 heures.

En conséquence les correspondances devront être remises à la poste **les Lundis et jeudis avant 12 heures.**

Art. 16.- La surtaxe de 1 franc visée à l'article 6 est définitivement acquise et aucune réclamation ne sera admise en vue de son remboursement.

OBSERVATION. Tout renseignement complémentaire toute proposition ou toute demande de transport non prévue par la présente instruction devront être adressées à l'Aéronautique Militaire Française des Armées Alliées en Orient à HIGHAM - TACHE Soloudoukou sera toujours donnée dans la mesure possible.

Le Général Commandant en Chef des Armées Alliées d'Orient
FRANCHET D'ESPEREY

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

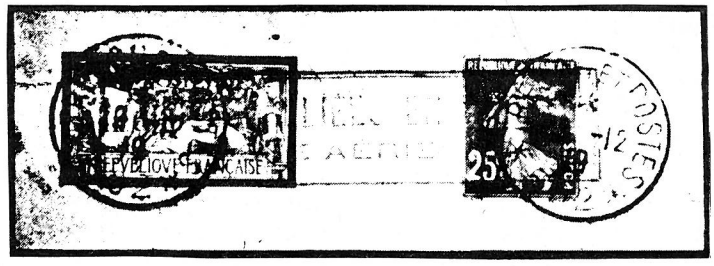


Fig. 3

In 1919, a military mail transport by air, between Constantinople and Bucharest was set up by the French Air Force which operated in the Near East and Middle East. Details on this air mail service can be found in the French magazines CHAMPION (October 1930 and May 1931) and L'ECHO DE LA TIMBROLOGIE (April 1934). A poster (Figure 1) with French language instructions for this air mail service, published in Constantinople in July 1919 (having been found by researchers in 1928) is illustrated there. Measuring 34 x 52 cm., it contains 7 articles regarding the mail transport itself and one more (Art. 16) with general stipulations. A translation follows:

AIR MAIL SERVICE CONSTANTINOPLE-BUCHAREST

Connecting with the Orient Express-Constantinople-Paris in 6 days

INSTRUCTIONS

A twice-a-week postal service by airplanes has been orgainzed between CONSTANTINOPLE and BUCHAREST, connecting with the Orient Express.

It functions subject to the following conditions:

Art.1.-Mail transport by airplanes is strictly limited to the following types correspondence originating in Constantinople with a destination of Bucharest or France.

a)-Ordinary and registered official envelopes.

b)-Private correspondence from the civilian population of Constantinople (Ordianry letters and postcards), with weight not to exceed 50 grams.

Art.2.-Departures will occur Tuesdays and Fridays at 6 A.M.

Art.3.-Total weight of each shipment cannot exceed 5 kgs. Private correspondence for each shipment will not be accepted after the maximum weight has been reached.

Art.4.-All official and private correspondence to be carried by airplanes will be marked by a canceller bearing the text:

ALLIED ARMIES IN THE EAST
AIR MAIL

Art.5.-Correspondence destined for air service is to be collected on Mondays and Thursdays between 18.00 and 19.00 hours, as follows:

a)-Official envelopes at Post Office #502 (Maison du Tunnel), at the courier department, and at the French Embassy.

b)-Civilian correspondence at the French Military Post Office of Constantinople Banque Street in Galata.

Art.6.-A fixed premium of 1 fr. in French postage stamps is to be affixed on all private correspondence.

Art.7.-Private correspoindence to be mailed by airplanes will be deposited at 14.00 hours on Mondays and Thursdays, at the Censor's Service of the French Military Post Office.

Therefore, correspondence must be deposited in the mail on Mondays and Thursdays before 13.00 hours.

Art.16.-The 1 franc premium mentioned in article 6 is final and no complaints for reimbursement will be accepted.

REMARKS. All supplementary information, suggestions and questions on transport not included in these instructions should be addressed to: French Air Force of the Allied Armies in the East at NICHANTASH. Satisfaction will be given within possible limits.

The Commander General
of the Allied Forces in the East
FRANCHET D'ESPEREY

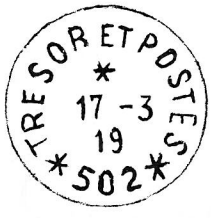


Fig. 4

The upper-left corner of this poster once more shows the ARMEES ALLIES EN ORIENT/POSTE AERIENNE" marking, stamped diagonally without the rectangular frame. This air mail marking - according to some researchers - was designed by GERARD, a commander of a French battalion, at that time the commanding officer of the French Armies' Air Force in the Orient.

LE PILEUR, a member of the French Academy of Philately of Paris, in his booklet "CAHIERS PHILATELIQUE" (published in 1948), reports the existence of 2 types of this marking, one original (Figure 2) and the other counterfeit, which differ slightly from one another. Both are rectangular with a doubly lined frame and display the same text on 2 lines. The original measures 79 x 22 mm. while the counterfeit, with much more regular letters, is 77 x 18 mm. Furthermore, Le Pileur mentions that the marking was applied on all mail carried by plane, from Constantinople to Bucharest or Paris via Bucharest, in either black or dark violet. To support this, Le Pileur shows that the May 1947 issue of the French magazine, "L'Officiel de la Philatelie" ilustrates a cover flown via this route, dated December 22, 1919, bearing such a black markings. Correspondence bearing these air markings is very scarce and beacuse it has been counterfeited, should be carefully examined or expertized.

While the aforementioned publications state that this service started in July 1919 and lasted until September 1919, cancellation on such items, seen in the collections of various philatelists, show that it lasted as late as December 1919 (December 22, 1919 on Figure 3).

Well known researchers such as S. STROWSKI in "Les Estampilles Postales Francaises au XXe Siecle" (L'Echo de la Timbrologie, No. 884/1931), LUCIANO BOZZETTI in "La Posta dell'Armee d'Orient" (Il Collezionista, No. 5/1968) and Col. C. DELOSTE in "Histoire Postale et Militaire de l'Armee d'Orient, 1915-1920" (Paris, 1946) state that, in general, correspondence, both official and private (franked and with air mail surcharge) originating from Constantinople and dispatched by air mail, bears a special circular postmark with the code number of the French Military Post Office in Constantinople (Figure 4) as well as the special rectangular air mail marking (Figure 2). Official and civilian mail originating from other French military post offices in the Near East which was sent to Constantinople for forwarding by plane to Bucharest or Paris via Bucharest (or other localities), already bore a postmark with the code number of the originating military post office (Figure 5). These, of course, received only the special rectangular air mail marking in Constantinople.

The postage rates for private correspondence were: 25¢ for a simple letter, 40¢ for a registered letter, and 1 frank for the air mail premium. The official mail was sent unfranked.

In Col. Deloste's collection several items from the European zone of military operations can be found. Figure 5 shows one of these, a piece of official mail (hence, unfranked) sent by air to the French Mission in Bucharest (Capt. Bergeret) which displays the rectangular air mail marking as well as a "526" circular postmark, dated October 11, 1919. A civilian letter, franked with five 25¢ French ("semeuse"-sower) stamps, all obliterated in black by the rectangular air cancellation, and separately postmarked with the "506" circular marking, dated 7-8 19 (August 7, 1919) reposes in my collection. The "506" code number belonged to the French military post office in MUDHROS (MOUDROS), on the island of Lemnos, in the Aegean Sea. This cover, also bears a marking unknown to me: "NO" in a triangle, as is shown in Figure 6.

Charilaos M. Binos in his booklet "The NO Initials as Censorship Indication During the First World War, and their Interpretation" (Athens, 1973) describes various types of "NO" markings, listing the opinions of various researchers (col. C. Deloste, Comm. Chr. J. Soliotis, Dr. Karl K. Wolter, Stephen Macrymichalos, Dr. U. Bellos, A.L. Kennedy) regarding the meaning of this marking and finally giving his own interpretation. Unfortunately none of the presented arguments can be proven.

The special circular dated postmarks

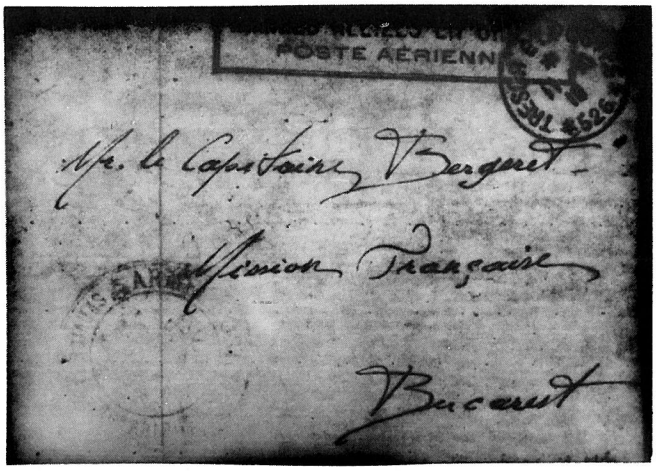


Fig. 5

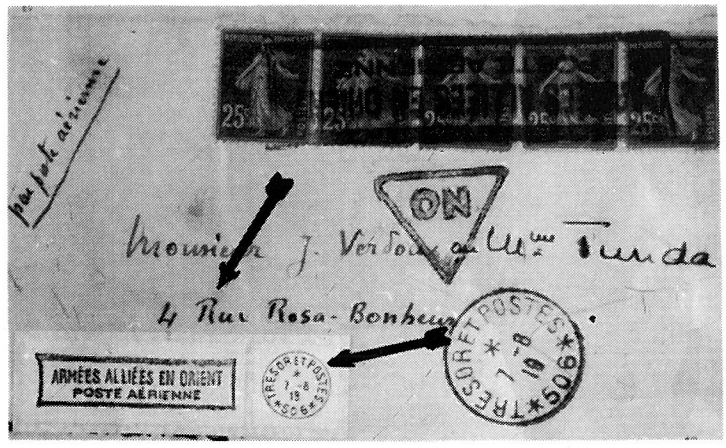


Fig. 6

with code numbers were applied by the French field post offices on both official and civilian mail. These special cancellers were kept under lock and key and the clercs who handled them were responsible. At the beginning of the war they were 22-23 mm. in diameter, later 26-27 mm. The text at the top reads: "TRESOR ET POSTES", while the bottom shows, between 2 small stars, a 3 digit code number; the 3-line center displays a small star/day and month/and below them the last 2 digits of the year, all in Arabic numerals (Figure 7).

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Strowski indicates that 500-series code numbers were assigned to the French military post offices in the European zone, while those in the 600-series were used by such offices in Near East and Middle East. Bozzetti ads that the code number of the 600-series were first used in 1917. They have also stated that the last 2 digits of these code numbers identify the number of the military post office. These offices were usually not tied down to a specific locality, but were used in the various places where the corresponding troops were relocated. On the other hand, some military post offices are known to have changed their code number when they were moved. As an example, in the cancellation with "502", the numeral "5" represents the operations zone, Europe; the last two digits "02" indicates the number of a particular military post office. The "502" cancellation was used in 1919 in Constantinople. Some code numbers also had letters indicating military post offices subordinate to main post offices. thus,the "502" office (Constantinople) had dependent offices "502C" (quartered in Gallipoli) and "502D" (in KILID-BAHR), both in the European zone of operations. Other code numbers reported for the European zone are as follows: "506" for MUHDROS; "512" in CORFU; in Romania: "520" in TIMISOARA, "520B" in ARAD, "528" in CONSTANTA, etc. Code numbers for post offices of military bases were meant to keep secret the locations, movements, and destinations of armies in those territories.

The "TRESOR ET POSTES" postmark with the "525" code number (Figure 7) has been found on some Romania stamps, in blocks of four. These stamps, in use between 1917 and 1919, include the 1909/1914 Carol typographed 1 BAN, black with red "FPTT" overprint (Scott #245, Yvert #258A); 5 BANI, yellow green (Figure 8) and 10 BANI rose violet, both with black 'FPTT" overprint (Scott #246, Yvert #258B, and Scott #247, Yvert #259), as well as the 5 BANI yellow green (Scott #241, Yvert #260) and 10 BANI rose violet (Scott #242 Yvert #261), both with black "1918" overprint; on the later the postmark is without "525" (Figure 9). The "525" marking has also been found on the 5 BANI dark gray postal tax stamps of the 1917/18 issue, with red "MViR" overprint (Scott #3NRA3, Yvert #I8) in blocks of 4 (Figure 10). Most of these have been described by M. Popovici and T. Comanescu in Filatelia, No. 2/1966 and by M. Popovici, T. Comanescu and Gr. Racoviceanu in "L'Echo de la Timbrologie", Nos. 1353 and 1354/1966.

Fig. 9

In correspondence I had with Col. Deloste (of France), he stated that despite Strowski's claim the "525" marking was used by a French military post office in Bucharest, after more than 30 years of research, Deloste could not verify this claim. Both Beloste and Bozzetti maintain that the "525" marking was initally assigned in November 1917 to the French military post office in TARANTO (Italy) and was later replaced ther by the "603" marking. Deloste presumes that after the "525" marking became unused, it was reassigned to one of the French military post office located in Bulgaria. Furthermore, he states that it is possible that this office was relocated in the spring of 1919 to Bucharest and continued using the same "525" marking. Nevertheless, Deloste considers the application of the "TRESOR ET POSTES" postmarks on Romanian stamps a philatelic fantasy, especially because these stamps with such postmarks, have never been found on postally used covers.

After Romania was liberated from German occupation, French armies were relocated from Bulgaria to Romania (December 1, 1918) under the command of Gen. BERTHELOT. A movie cameraman operating in Bucharest, Ionescu-Cioc who was also a philatelist, was friendly with employees of the French Mission in Bucharest. He obtained, from a clerc of the French military post office, permission to apply on current Romanian stamps, as souvenirs, some of the "TRESOR ET POSTES" cancellers (such as those with and withou the "525" code number). This happened on two occasions: on February 22, 1919 (Figure 9) and on April 23, 1919 (Figures 8 and 10). Therefore, we may conclude that the French military post office operating in Bucharest in 1919 did use "525" cancellers and that Romanian stamps bearing such markings were cancelled to order.

It would be interesting to find private correspondence used between December 1918 and June 28, 1919 (signing of the Peace Treaty in Versailles) with French stamps obliterated "525" or even official mail (without stamps) bearing this marking. These would be solid proof that a French military post office indeed operated in Bucharest when the French armies entered Romania's capital, and that the "525" marking was used there.

Fig. 10

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, May 1981

Magura: A Local Post in Transylvania

by Ludovic Dengel

The Magura holiday resort is located thirty kilometers southeast of the city of Cluj-Napoca, and south of a brook called Racataul, a tributary of the Somesul Rece River. Situated at an altitude of 1,400 meters, the resort is on the territory of the Maguri village.

The resort, which no longer exists as such, could be reached from Cluj-Napoca via Gilau, and from Huedin via Calatele and Belis. The last eight kilometers of the road wind through a beautiful mountain region covered by fir trees.

The resort of Magura was started with a few hunting lodges built by wealthy people from Cluj, who, with their families, would spend the hot summers in this pretty place. With the increasing numbers of tourists, more houses were built, the community was enlarged, and a restaurant-inn was opened. Figure 1 shows part of the Maguri village itself; Figure 2 is a postcard showing the restaurant and two of the chalets of the resort near the small town. The name of the village to this day is Maguri, but the resort's name, which appears on the stamps described here, is "Magura."

At the insistence of the chalet owners (who, because of their social status, had good relations with the authorities in Cluj), a special postal service for Magura was established in the spring or early summer of 1903. This service handled mail in both directions between the Magura resort and the nearest state-run post office. Unlike the other local posts of Transylvania, this service was not private, but state-owned and operated.

Figure 1. General view of part of the Maguri village. The houses are sparse ana spreaa over a large area.

At Magura the mail was collected, handled, and distributed by employees of the resort administration, who were also state employees (even though not employees of the Department of Posts). Even an employee of the Department of Forestry named Bors for a while acted as a courier between Magura and the nearest state post office.

The post's local character is determined by the fact that the semi-official stamps issued by the postal directorate of Cluj had only local validity, serving only the Magura posts. Items mailed to and from Magura had to carry postage stamps issued by the Hungarian state and valid throughout the country, as well as Magura stamps representing a surcharge applied to cover costs incurred because of difficult road conditions between the resort area and the nearest

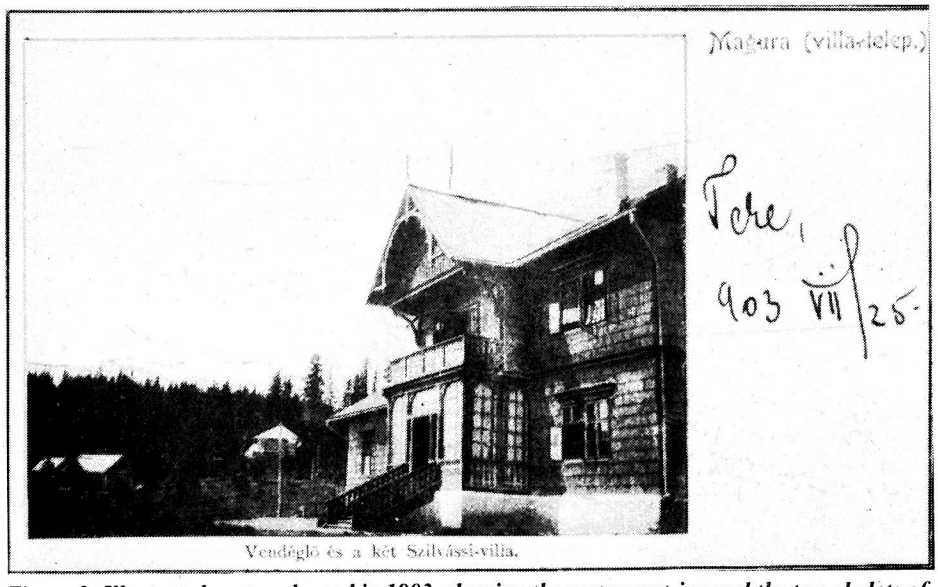


Figure 2. Illustrated postcard, used in 1903, showing the restaurant-inn and the two chalets of the Szilvassy family.

Ludovic Dengel is noted for his collections of "Local Posts of Transylvania," "Foreign Posts in the Romanian Principalities," and "Romanian Classics and Post-Classics." He is a former editor of **Der Briefmarken-Bote,** *and has donated most of his collection and research notes to the future Museum of Romanian Posts. The author lives in Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania.*

Figure 3. Letter mailed on August 23, 1903, from Magura to Budapest, with a 10-filler Hungarian postage stamp and two Magura stamps (2- and 4-filler), with the Josikatelep post office cancellation and a Budapest arrival marking on the back.

official post office.

There were two Magura issues, each with two values. The first values, issued in 1903, were printed in Cluj by the Praegerdruck Company, in negative: The text, frame, and ornaments are white and the remainder of the stamp is colored. The paper was unwatermarked, and the design size is 17.6 x 22.5 mm. The values, colors, and intended uses are the following: 2-filler, white on dark green, for postcards and newspapers; 4-filler, white on red-purple, for letters.

The stamps are perforated 10½ x 11. The text on each value, in five lines, reads: "M. KIR. KINCSTARI/ NYARALOTELEP/ 2 (or 4)/ FILLER/ MAGURA" ("M.(agyar) K.(iralyi) Kincstari Nyaralotelep" is Hungarian meaning "Royal Hungarian Treasury's Resort Colony.")

The number of stamps printed is unknown, but seems to have been very small as copies are extremely scarce. The *Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue* of 1974 estimates 1,200 sets; it is presumed that there were 100 stamps in a sheet.

The state post office from which the Magura mail was picked up and deposited during that period was a village called Josikatelep (today called Balcesti, in the Belis parish, west of the village of Maguri). The stamps of the 1903 issue were canceled with the device of this office, because although the Magura resort station was state-owned, it did not have its own canceler. The Magura stamps were affixed near the Hungarian postage stamps (on mail originating in Magura) and obliterated together.

The Josikatelep state postal agency's cancel is a double-circle type (Figure 3), with outer and inner diameters of 30 and 19 mm, respectively. The top, between the two circles, is inscribed "JOSIKATELEP," which means nearly the same as Josikafalva, present-day Balcesti. (In Hungarian, "telep" means colony or settlement, while "falva" means village.) The bottom, between the circles, shows an arabesque ornament. In the cancel's center, in a bridge, is the date. Inside the smaller circle, as on other Hungarian cancels of that time, is the royal crown at the top, and a number or a letter on the bottom (it seems to be a capital "N" in this case). The rest of the cancel, except for the bridge, is filled with parallel vertical lines.

Figure 3 shows a cover with an official Hungarian stamp and two Magura stamps. It was franked for philatelic purposes with a 4-filler and a 2-filler stamp — more than required — but it was postally used, and has a Budapest arrival cancellation on the back.

In 1904, the Postal Directorate of Cluj revoked Magura's authorization of operation, but in 1911, owing to the growth of the resort, a local postal service again was authorized and a second set of the same denominations of Magura stamps was issued. The old cliches were reconditioned, which resulted in more carefully executed stamps. These stamps were again printed in negative, but in a different color from the first issue. On unwatermarked paper, the stamps are perforated 16½, and described as follows: 2-filler, white on light green, for postcards; 4-filler, white on light green, for letters.

Both values were printed in the same color. The number of stamps printed for this second issue, as for the first, is unknown. Compared with the 1903 is-

Figure 4. Hungarian postal card addressed to Szekeljudvarhelj (Odorhei), with a 2-filler Magura stamp added to the 5-filler imprinted stamp, both obliterated with the Reketo postmark.

Figure 5. Letter addressed to Szekeljudvarhelj, with a 4-filler Magura stamp added to a 10-filler Hungarian adhesive, both obliterated with the Reketo cancelmark, and a Szekeljudvarhelj arrival marking on the back.

sue, the letters, numerals, and ornaments of the 1911 issue are thinner and clearer.

In 1911, the official post office designated for connection with Magura was that in the village of Reketo, located east of Magura.

The cancellation used in conjunction with the second issue is rectangular with cut corners, and measures 31.5 x 23.3 mm. Inside the frame, the three-line text is: "REKETO"/ the date: year (last 3 digits), month (first 3 letters), day, and "d.u." ("d.u." is the abbreviation for "delutan," meaning afternoon)/ POSTAI UGYN. ("Postai Ugynokseg" means "Postal Agency"). Presumably, there was also a cancellation with "d.e." ("delelot," meaning "before noon" or "morning").

In the village of Reketo (today called Magura-Racatau), a state postal agency was established in 1911. On all mail handled there, the above-described cancellation was applied. The Magura resort station still did not have its own canceler, as it was not an official post office run by the Department of Posts.

The postcard and the cover illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, both with the same date (October 23, 1911) and the same addressee, were prepared for philatelic purposes but were postally used. The postal card shown in Figure 4 has a "Szekeljudvarhelj" arrival marking on the front, while the cover shown in Figure 5 has the same arrival marking on the back. These items verify that the extra charge for a postcard (added to the official postage rate) was two filler (in Magura stamps), and four filler for a letter.

The Magura stamps are interesting because, although for local use, unlike other local stamps they were issued and administered by the state. TheAP

References

*Williams, L.N. and M. *Hotel Posts of Hungary & Roumania*, London, 1962.

**Available from the American Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 338, State College, PA 16801.*

REVIEW:

MARINA

Published by the Constanta chapter of the Philatelists' Association of Romania (P.O. Box 111, 8700 Constanta, Romania) in June 1981, in Romanian language. Its 40 well written, diversified and richly illustrated pages contain articles, notes and information regarding maritime philately: "125th Anniversary of the Founding of the European Commission for the Danube" by Carmen Atanasiu; "Navigation and Shipbuilding, Part 9" by Titu Nicolescu; "Shipboard Cancellations Used by the Romanian Maritime Service, Part 2" by Silviu Dragomir; "The Training Vessel, 'Mircea', Part 5" by Francisc Hosciuc; "Christophor Columbus, Part 5" by Mariana Atanasiu; "Marco Polo" by Virgiliu Moroianu, the editor-in-chief; "Postage Stamps with a Maritime Theme" unsigned; "Philatelic Novelties with a Maritime Theme" unsigned; "The Discovery of West Africa by the Portuguese" and "Vasco de Gama", both by Virgiliu Moroianu; "The Oceanic Research Vessel D/E OBI" by Iulius Predusel; "Passenger Ships" unsigned; "Military Ships" unsigned; "Submarines" unsigned; "Lighthouses in Romania" and "Friendship Visits"; "of USS Miller and USS Caron to Constanta", both by Tiberiu Petrilla the editor; "The Last Voyage of the Polish Yacht S/Y DAL" by Stefan Jakucewicz; "I.K. Aivazovski and his Ocean Paintings" by Valeriu Avramescu, as well as other articles.

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CENSOR MARKINGS USED IN TIMISOARA

MIRCEA TELEGUT, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timisoara, Romania.

During World Wars I and II, the contents of all Romanian mail was censored. This operation was attested to by applying censor markings or printed bands which resealed opened envelopes. Depending upon their locations, the various localities had military or civilian censorship bureaus.

The majority of the markings show the locality's name as well as the number of the censor or the bureau. Others, usually linear in shape, have only one word: "CENZURAT" (censored). The printed bands, with their various texts, do not, however, show the locality where the censorship operation took place.

During and after World War I, in Timisoara, various censor bureaus used markings with texts in German language, bilingual (in German and Hungarian), in Hungarian, in Serbian, and finally in Romanian.

The 1914-1918 Period

1. "K.u.K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE/TEMESVAR", [I.(mperial) a.(nd) R.(oyal) Mail Censorship/ . . .] in German. Frameless, it is usually applied in red. Measuring 65 x 12 mm., it is found on a letter dated July 17, 1917 and franked with a 10 Filler Hungarian stamp (Sower).

K. u. K. BRIEFZENSURSTELLE
TEMESVÁR

2. "UBER-PRUFT/Felulvizsgalva /TEMESVAR", (censored/ . . .) a bilingual text in German and Hungarian. Stamped in red, and measuring 50 x 22 mm., it is found on a cover dated May 12, 1916, franked with an Austrian 10 Heller red stamp.

ÜBERPRÜFT
Felülvizsgálva
TEMESVÁR

3. "CS. ES KIR. ELLENORZO BIZOTTSAG 1915 VIII 31 TEMESVAR" (Imperial and Royal Control Commission . . .) in Hungarian. Usually in red, but sometimes found in violet. It is the only dated censor marking and is 43/42 mm. in diameter (double circle, the space between the two circles often filled in with ink). It is found on covers and postcards franked with Hungarian stamps, dated between March 16, 1915 to January 16, 1916.

CS. ÉS KIR. ELLENŐRZŐ
1915 VIII. 31
TEMESVÁR
BIZOTTSÁG

4. "FELULVIZSGALT/(TEMESVAR)" (controlled, censored/ . . .), in Hungarian. Stamped in red, measuring 45 x 11.5 mm., it is found on a cover dated September 15, 1915.

FELÜLVIZSGÁLT
(TEMESVÁR)

5. "KATONAI ELLENORZO BIZOTTSAG" (Military Control Commission). In Hungarian, 33 mm. in diameter, it is found on a cover dated May 14, 1915, without the town name which seems to have been removed. This marking is also known with the name in its center.

KATONAI ELLENŐRZŐ BIZOTTSÁG

The 1918-1920 Period

6. "TZENZURIVANO U TEMISVARU" (Censored in Timisoara). In Serbian with Cyrillic lettering, it is 32 mm. in diamter, applied in black or red. It was utilized by the Serbian occupation forces from November 10, 1918 to July 27, 1919, when they left the city, and is found on mail with Hungarian or Romanian stamps.

ЦЕНЗУРИВАНО У ТЕМИШВАРТ

7. "CENZURA ROMANA TIMISOARA" (Romanian Censorship Timisoara) is the first Romanian language censor marking used in the province of Banat. Mostly applied in violet, but sometimes red, it is 32 mm. in diameter. It was used starting August 3, 1919, when the Romanian armies entered Timisoara (the Romanian administration was installed on August 20, 1919). Censorship of domestic correspondence was supposed to have been discontinued on July 15, 1920, and that for mail coming from abroad on September 8, 1920, but this marking, on both domestic and foreign mail, was used as late as 1921. I have found it on mail used from August 29, 1919 to October 3, 1919.

CENZURA ROMANA
TIMIȘOARA

The 1941-1945 Period

8. "CENZURAT" (censored). This frameless, linear marking, measure 42 x 5 mm. Its "antique" letters are applied in black or violet. This type of marking was applied on censored mail in various cities, one being Timisoara. It is found on covers and postcards dated from August 4, 1941 to September 21, 1941.

CENZURAT

9. "CENZURAT TIMISOARA 10". Linear, with a 50-52 x 8.5 mm. frame, it displays the number of the censor or censor bureau on the right. Applied in red or violet, it is found on mail used in 1941-42. The following numbers are known: 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 31.

CENZURAT TIMIȘOARA 10

10. "13 Cenzurat Timisoara 13". Linear, with a 55-56 x 12-13 mm. double frame, it is applied in black. It bears the number of the censor or censor bureau on the left and on the right. It is found on mail used in 1943 with the following numbers: 2, 4 and 13.

13 Cenzurat Timișoara 13

11. "18 Cenzurat Timisoara 18". Linear, with a 53-54 x 10-11 mm. single frame, it is applied in black. It is found on mail used in 1943 (numbers 14, 18, 28), 1944 (12, 13, 31, 35) and 1945 (4, 28, 36, 37, 40, 41).

18 Cenzurat Timisoara 18

12. "Cenzura militara/postala/Jud. Timis-Tor." (Military censorship/ for mail / Timis-Tor. County). With a 34 x 18 mm. frame, it is found in black, red or violet. This type of marking was usually used in county seats. In the county of Timis-Torontal this was the city of Timisoara. It is found on mail dated August 23, 1941.

Cenzura militară
poștală
Jud. Timiș-Tor.

Romanian River Craft Markings

EDITOR'S NOTE — All items submitted voluntarily to the Expertizing Committee of the Philatelists' Association of Romania to help in their investigation, and found to be counterfeit, were handstamped "FALS" and confiscated. The association, having knowledge and proof of a counterfeiting operation, is obligated by law and common sense to submit the evidence to the proper authorities. An investigation by the criminal justice system should reveal the complete scope of the operation, which consisted of more markings than those described. Counterfeit maritime cancellations, railway markings and others are known to have been made by Cuculis. These too must be identified and described in the philatelic press.

Pictorial Cancel Counterfeits

By SILVIU DRAGOMIR, str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest Romania

In *Romanian Philatelic Studies* No. 1, 1979, Grigore Cuculis of Tulcea, Romania, in an article "A Figurative Cancel Used on Romanian Vessels," described postmarks used on Romanian river craft navigating the Danube from Sulina to Cerna-Voda and return, and illustrated several items with such markings. Recently it was discovered that Cuculis himself created most of his spectacular philatelic items. He had even exhibited his creations and received high awards for them. To inform collectors about these dangerous counterfeits the Romanian magazine *Filatelia* published, in issues Nos. 2 and 3 of 1981, an excellent and detailed article by Corneliu Spineanu and Leonard Pascanu. For those who do not have access to this magazine or do not understand the Romanian language, we present the characteristics of both the counterfeit and the original markings.

There are eight known types of the markings, one for each route:

SULINA—TULCEA
TULCEA—SULINA
SULINA—GALATI
GALATI—SULINA
TULCEA—GALATI
GALATI—TULCEA
GALATI—CERNA-VODA
CERNA-VODA — GALATI

The designs of the originals are similar but not identical. All of the Cuculis counterfeits are identical; they appear to have been made with the same zinc plate, only the date and route indication being changed.

On the original cancellers the route indication was fixed while the date was changeable. The ink usually is black, but violet and blue markings also are known. Normally only one cancellation appears on a cover or postcard.

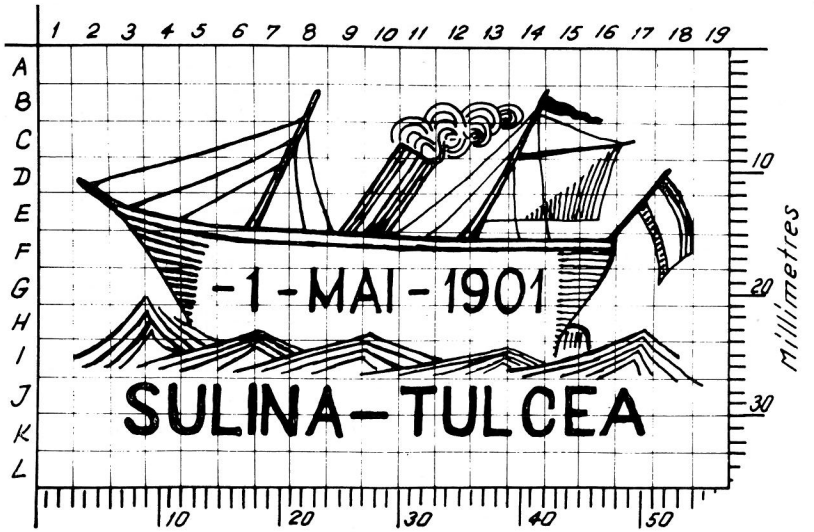

Figure 1. The original SULINA—TULCEA pictorial ship cancellation.

General Characteristics of the Counterfeit Markings

1.01. Extremely showy items such as those with two pictorial ship markings or with the scarce GALATI-CERNA-VODA (spelled as one word on the counterfeits but two words on the originals), or SULINA—GALATI markings, combinations with other ship cancellations such as those of the Russian vessels *Bolgaria* and *Basarabet* (also counterfeited by the same individual), etc. should be treated with suspicion.

1.02. Inconsistency between the normal routing of the cover and the usage of the ship cancellation may indicate a counterfeit. The period of usage, the routes and normal postal routine must be checked out. For example, there are cards franked with Russian stamps first issued in 1917 and obliterated with "PARAHOD BOLGARIA" or "PAR. BASARABETZ," but also bearing pictorial ship cancellations dated 1916, a year before the issue dates of the stamps.

1.03. Some counterfeit items have another marking under the ship cancellation. Sometimes the original date of use has been altered to match the ship cancel.

1.04. The design of the counterfeit marking, probably made with a zinc plate, is coarser than the original, which was made with a finely engraved steel canceller. The counterfeit cancel has some imperfections caused by the zinc plate which may or may not show up.

1.05. Dots and ink spots in the same places suggest marks made by the heads of nails used to attach the zinc plate to a wooden support.

1.06. All counterfeits, for all routes, are identical. The originals are slightly different.

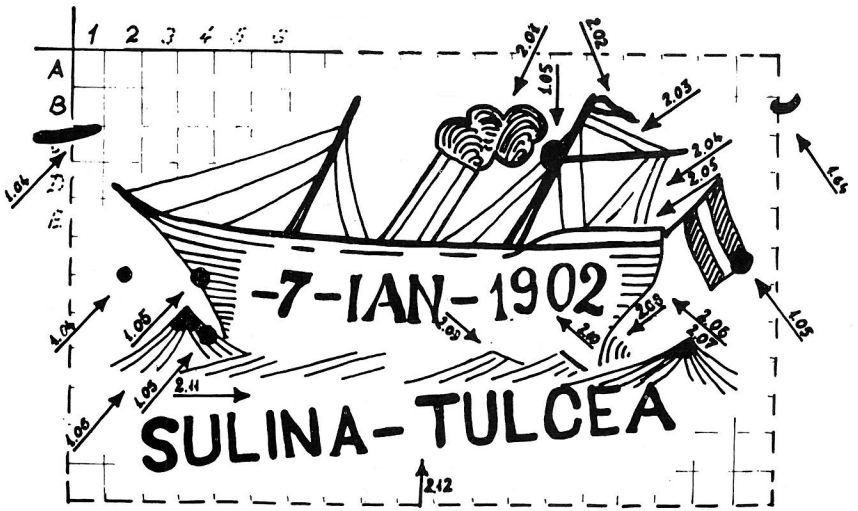

Figure 2. The counterfeit SULINA—TULCEA cancel. Numbers with arrows are the section numbers in the text.

Specific Differences Between Counterfeits and Originals

2.01. The smoke coming from the smokestack forms three curls on the counterfeits; the originals have four.

2.02. The flag atop the mizzenmast is thicker but shorter in the counterfeits. The flag may or may not be filled in, depending on the amount of ink used, so this is not indicative.

2.03. On the counterfeits there are two lines between the mizzenmast and the sail, but only one on the originals.

2.04. The sail on the counterfeits is simplified, with only a few vertical lines; on the original it is drawn with a compact set of shading lines.

2.05. On the counterfeits the stern is unclear at the top, giving the appearance of two decks.

2.06. The horizontal shading lines of the stern are spaced about 1 mm. apart on the counterfeits; on the originals they are closer, about 0.3 mm. apart.

2.07. The stern appears more curved on the counterfeits than the originals; the three-stripe flag has the same shape on all of the counterfeits; on the originals it differs from one route to another.

2.08. On the counterfeits the rudder is represented only by vertical lines; the originals also have a line indicating its shape.

2.09. There are six waves on all counterfeits, with two of them under the number indicating the year. The original SULINA—TULCEA and TULCEA—SULINA have only five waves, one at the bow, one at the stern and three amidships. The original GALATI—TULCEA has six waves and probably served as the model for the counterfeit.

2.10. On all of the counterfeits the front of the first wave has four lines; on the genuine SULINA—TULCEA and SULINA—GALATI there are also four lines, while on the TULCEA—SULINA and TULCEA—GALATI there are five and on the GALATI—TULCEA there are six.

2.11. The numbers and letters of the date are often slanted and/or slightly curved on the counterfeits; on the originals they are straight and equidistant to the rest of the resign.

2.12. The letters in the route indication are sometimes slanted in the counterfeits; in the originals they are always straight and equidistant from the waves.

2.13. The typeface and the sizes of the letters and numerals as well as the width of the numbers and words are different on the counterfeits and originals. The length of the words indicating the routes and the height of the letters are always the same for the same route on the originals because they were made with the same canceler; on the counterfeits they can vary because they were made at various times using various devices. For example, on the SULINA—TULCEA original the overall dimensions of the words are 42.5x3.5 mm. (18 mm. each word with 6.5 mm. between) and of the date 27.5x3.0 mm. For TULCEA-SULINA it is 41.0x3.5 mm. and for TULCEA—GALATI 39.0x3.5 mm.

It is difficult to get complete information on the originals of all routes because, due to their scarcity, there is not enough study material.

On items with counterfeit ship cancellations there are often also counterfeit double circle dated town cancels, such as TULCEA and MACIN (with date on three lines and six-pointed star as ornament) and SULINA (with date in three lines and a large postal horn as ornament) or the PARAHOD BOLGARIA or PAR. BASRABETZ markings. The original PARAHOD BOLGARIA has diameters of 33 and 28 mm., the counterfeits 38 and 26 mm.

According to the article in *Filatelia* the Expertizing Committee of the Philatelists' Association of Romania examined 187 items and found 181 to be counterfeit. In addition to postal cards or picture postcards with stamps, the counterfeit pictorial ship cancels were found on maximum cards, newspapers, wrappers and booklets mailed with stamps.

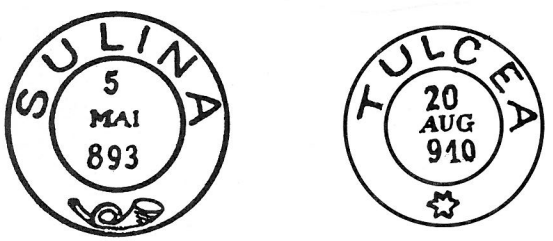

Figure 3. Counterfeit double circle dated town cancellations.

EXPERTIZING THE UNITED PRINCIPALITIES 1862 & 1864 ISSUES

Vladimir Bobeica, Str. V. Braniste No. 56, 74136 Bucharest, Romania.

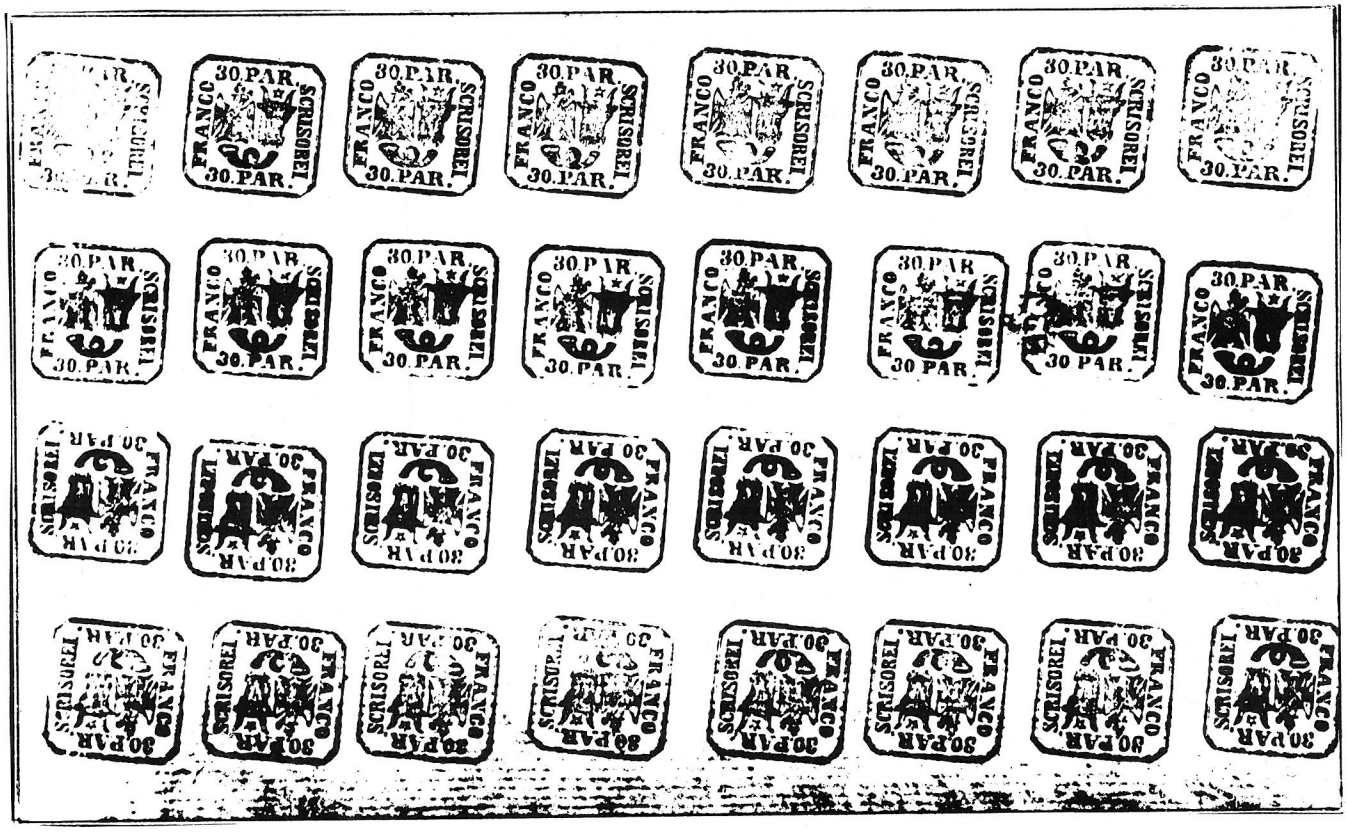

Fig. 1. 1862, 30 Parale, reduced.

Differentiating the 1862 issue of the United Principalities (Scott #11-18) from the 1864 issue (Scott #19-21) is difficult because of the almost identical designs and colors of the 3, 6 and 30 parale stamps. Distinguishing these two issues (also called Moldavia-Walachia) is especially important in view of the vast differences in value between them.

In 1862, each stamp was separately printed by a manual operation of the simple press in which one of the three metal cliches (there was one for each of the three denominations) was affixed. By repetition of this process, sheets of 32 stamps were obtained. Figure 1 shows, slightly reduced, a sheet of the 30 parale stamps.

In 1864, each of the three cliches used in 1862 was reproduced 40 times by the galvanoplastic method. These new cliches were then nailed on wooden printing plates, one plate for each denomination. These plates were then utilized in a different press to print 40 stamps simultaneously per sheet. Figure 2 shows a sheet of the 30 parale stamps.

While these two issues thus originate from the same cliches, they show small differences in design due to two causes:

a) When, in 1864, the original cliches of 1862 were reproduced, tiny deformities occurred on EACH new cliche, resulting in 40 different and distinct positions as well in deformations common to several stamps on the sheet. For example, on the 30 parale sheet, there are three such subtypes.

b) The nailing of each cliche to the wooden plate, using 2 nails, created on some of the stamps, visible impressions caused by the protruding heads of the nails. These dots are, therefore, characteristic to the 1864 issue.

Design differences between the two issues must be separately described for each of the three values. We will show the characteristics of the 30 parale stamps. Because of its blue printing, they show up better on the white paper than the yellow (3 parale) or red (6 parale) printing. Also on this stamp, the galvanoplastic reproduction process created more minute deformities than on the other two values.

The following points, presented in the order recommended for use, help distinguish between these two issues:

1. All the stamps on authentic horizontally laid paper (counterfeit "laids" exist) belong to the 1862 issue; this is valid for all three denominations. Original stamps, both of 1862 and 1864 issues exist, to which, in order to increase their market value, fake laid lines have been applied (sometimes drawn with a greasy solution). To aid recognition of the genuine laid paper, we show in figure 3 a stamp with authentic "stripes." Remember that when looking at the whole sheet of the 1862 issue, the "stripes" are indeed horizontal, parallel to the wider side of the paper, but on single stamps, these "stripes" appear to be tilted about 5° because of the way they were printed. In the space between the upper and the lower frame lines of the 30 parale of 1862 there should be distinguishable 14 (or 15) dark "stripes" alternating with 15 (or 14) light "stripes." The vertical line, parallel with the narrower side of the paper, and therefore perpendicular to the horizontal stripes, should likewise appear tilted (for the above given reason). The position of the vertical line vis a vis the stamp's design need not necessarily be that shown in figure 3, but can also be in different places. On some single stamps, it is possible that this vertical line will not show at all.

Fig. 3. 1862, laid paper.

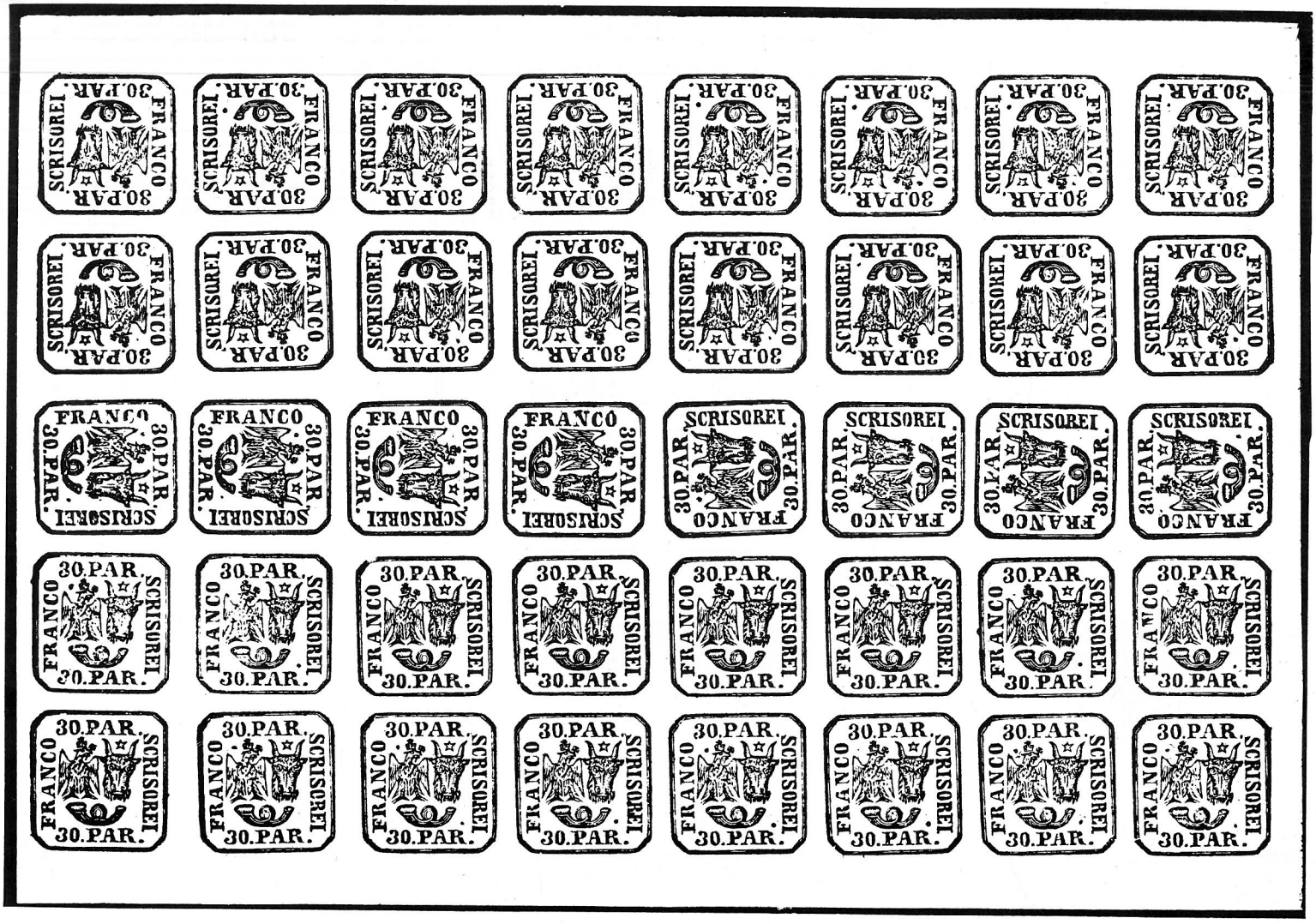

Fig. 2. 1864, 30 Parale.

2. All 30 parale 1864 stamps must belong to one of the three subtypes shown in figures 4, 5 and 6. Each sheet displays 22 positions of subtype I, 16 of subtype II and 2 of subtype III. The mandatory characteristics (each marked with arrows in the figures) are:

2.1. Colored dot in "F" of "FRANCO"; this characteristic is necessarily accompanied by the following (2.2):

2.2. Thickening of the "P" in the upper "PAR", under the loop.

2.3. Colored dot in the upper portion of the post horn's loop.

2.4. Traces of nailheads on the upper left and lower right sides of the stamp. While figure 4 shows two dots complete, in reality, most often they can only be seen partially. These nailhead dots are not peculiar to only one of the three subtypes; they can be found, without any regularity on any of the subtypes, but ONLY on the 1864 issue.

3. Any 30 parale 1864 stamp can be alloted to its position on the 40-cliche plate, each displaying its own characteristics. It is not possible to present all the details for all the 40 stamps, about 750-800 characteri tics. We do, however,

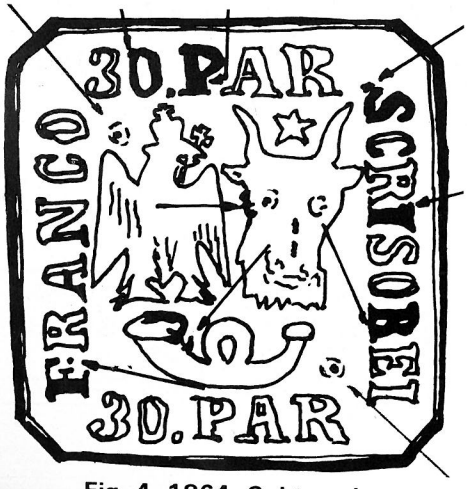

Fig. 4. 1864, Subtype I

Fig. 5. 1864, Subtype II

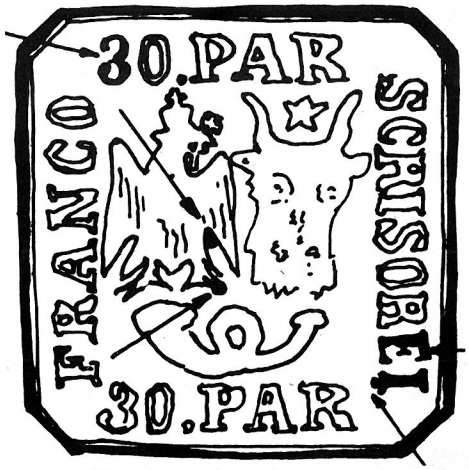

Fig. 6. 1864, Subtype III

show (figure 7) two stamps from the center of the sheet, which, due to their tete-beche position, can be easily identified on the sheet.

4. On pairs, strips, blocks, etc. other helpful elements come into play, such as: the relative positioning of the stamps, the distances (vertically and horizontally) between them, the size and the geometrical shapes of the blank spaces between the stamps, the tilt of the stamps, etc. as can be seen in figure 2. This is applicable only for the 1864 issue where the positions of the cliches are constant for each value. Every sheet of the 1862 issue differs somewhat as the stamps were printed one at the time by moving the paper in the single die manual printing device.

Establishing the date of issue of any one stamp in multiple naturally determines that of all stamps in the multiple. For most multiples of the 30 parale stamps, a simple comparison with figures 1 and 2 should identify the issue.

5. The printing's general appearance; the 1862 issue is finer than the 1864 issue which, because of its more careless reproduction, is coarser, with the numerous tiny flaws, shown in figures 4, 5, 6 and 7.

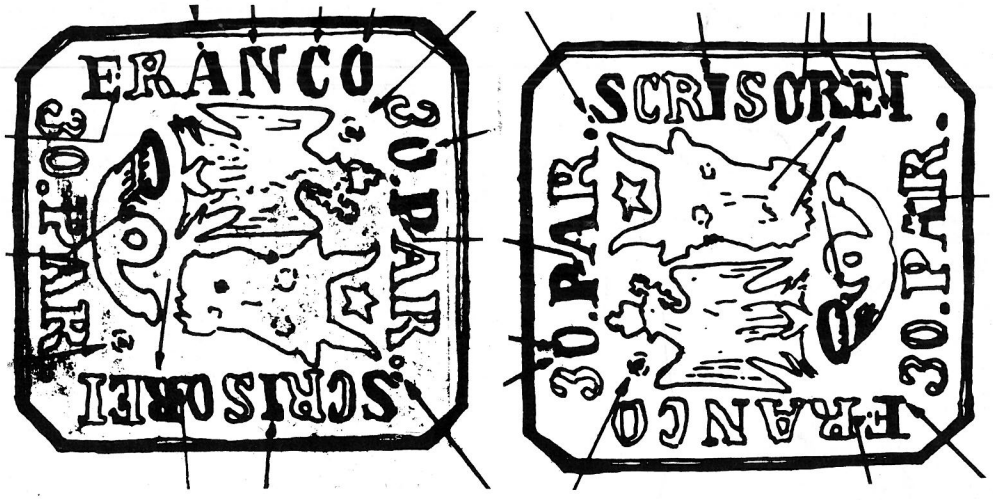

Fig. 7. 1864, tete-beche pair.

6. All stamps on authentic bluish (azure) paper are from the 1862 issue. Beware of stamps given a fake coloration.

Finally, a few remarks about stamps on covers or fragments of covers. Results of examination of the stamps must concur strictly with any evidence displayed by postmarks (departure, arrival and any transit markings) and/or the date of the correspondence. Fake covers with original or counterfeit stamps are known.

Romanian Philatelic Studies Now in the Library of the Romanian Academy

SILVIU DRAGOMIR, Bucharest, Romania

Recently a collection of "Romanian Philatelic Studies", presently in its sixth year of publication, was presented to the library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest. The collection, bound in one volume can be consulted by interested researchers. This volume will share the same advantages that other publications in the library's huge collection have, namely that microfilms or photocopies of its content can be supplied to other libraries as well as to individuals, even those residing outside of Romania.

Official acceptance of "Romanian Philatelic Studies" by the most prestigious library in that country is most welcome, especially since a large number of these bulletins, sent free to the libraries of the county chapters of the Philatelists' Association of Romania, have not arrived at their destinations. Now, all those interested in reading these bulletins can do so under the best conditions and without restrictions.

The "Biblioteca Academiei Romane" (Library of the Romanian Academy) was founded in 1867 with donations received from the St. Sava College, the Metropolitan Church of Bucharest, and scholars and writers such as Mihai Kogalniceanu, Alexandru Odobescu, Ion Ghica, Timotei Cipariu, Gheorghe Baritiu, and others. Today this library holds over 5,000,000 books, 40,000 collections of periodicals with 1,000,000 individual copies, 700,000 historical documents, 350,000 drawings and engravings, 250,000 philatelic and numismatic items, 35,000 musical works, 15,000 maps and 13,000 manuscripts.

EDITOR'S NOTE. We send our bulletins gratis to numerous important libraries around the world: the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; the Library of the Romanian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; the Romanian Philatelists' Association's Library in Bucharest, Romania; the New York Public Library in New York City; the American Library of Bucharest, Romania; Philatelistische Bibliothek in Munich, West Germany; the Romanian Collection of the Kent State University's Library in Kent, Ohio; the American Philatelic Research Library in State College, Pennsylvania, and many others, as well as to all of the 40 philatelic libraries of the county chapters of the Philatelists' Association of Romanian.

AN UNRECORDED RIVER-POST MARKING

LADISLAU ROTHMAN, 29 Metzada Street, Ramat Gan, Israel

In addition to the river-post markings presented by Dr. L.N. Cristea in "The River-Post of Romania" (Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 2/1979), I am reporting here on a double circle type marking that reads: "SERV. POST. AMB. GIURGIU-GALATI" and is dated "24 MAI 94". The circles are 26 mm. and 16 mm. in diameter.

This illustration was reconstructed from fragments of markings found on three separate stamps, all of the "Numerals in four corners" set, one 5 Bani value and two 25 Bani values.

Researchers are invited to report other unrecorded river-post markings.

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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI
(Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

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